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ELIZABETH CITY, N. C., FRIDAY, JUNE 9, 1899.

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Wanted—An idea

## MORAL EXPANSION.

DR. TALMAGE ON OUR DUTY IN THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

Leaving Political Questions to the Statesmen, He Gives His Views of What We Should Do For Their Religious Welfare.

WASHINGTON, June 4.—In this discourse Dr. Talmage steers clear of the political entanglements of our time and recommends that which will meet the approval of all who hope for the perpetuity of our republic and the welfare of other lands; text, Genesis xxviii, 14, "Thou shalt spread abroad to the west and to the east."

Since the Americano-Hispanic war is concluded and the United States ambassador is on the way to Madrid and the Spanish ambassador is on the way to Washington the people of our country are divided into expansionists and anti-expansionists. From a different standpoint than that usually taken I discuss this all absorbing theme. I leave the political aspect of this subject to statesmen and warriors and pray Almighty God that they may be enabled rightly to settle the question whether the islands in controversy shall be finally annexed or held under protectorate and the secular school came in. Now to better advantage than ever before religions and secular enlightenment may go side by side, and so the work be accomplished in short time and more thoroughly. Starting with the fact that in Cuba and Porto Rico and the Philippine Islands at least three-fourths of the people can neither read nor write, what an opportunity for school and printing press! Within five years every man in these islands may be taught to read not only the Bible, but the Declaration of Independence and the constitution of the United States and the biography of George Washington and of Abraham Lincoln.

It seems to me that the government of the United States ought by vote of congress afford common schools and printing presses to those benighted regions. Our national legislature by one vote appropriated \$300,000,000 for bread and medicine to Cuba. Why not by a similar generosity give \$50,000,000 for feeding and healing the minds and souls of those ignorant and benighted archipelagos. In the name of God I nominate a school for every neighborhood of Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippines. As soon as the gavel falls at 12 o'clock of next Dec. 4 on the table of senate and house of representatives the roll has been called and the preliminaries observed let some member of our national legislature, with mind and voice strong enough to be heard not only through those halls, but through Christendom, propose a measure for the mental and moral disenfranchisement of the islands in controversy.

What has made American civilization has ever seen? Next to the Bible and the church, schools, common schools, reaching from the Atlantic to the Pacific and from British America to the Gulf of Mexico. Five years under such educational advantage, and this whole subject that keeps our public men agitated, some of them frothing at the month, will settle itself. Give these islands readers, spellers, arithmetics, histories, blackboards, maps, geographical globes. Let the state legislatures at their next meeting, some of them assembling in early autumn, take parts of these islands under their special educational patronage. What is needed is state and national action in this matter of schools.

Work of the Printing Press. Then let the editorial associations of the United States, as many of such organizations as there are states, resolve at the next convocation to establish in every region of those islands a printing press, to be supported by people of this country until it can become self supporting. Each of these state editorial associations sending out an editor and at least one editor and two reporters and enough typesetters, down will go the ignorance and superstition of those islands as certainly as the Spanish fleet under Cervantes sank under the pounding of our American battleships, and into their every port will go intelligence and love of free institutions as certainly as Admiral Dewey on that famous night when he was not expected. How's printing press! Nothing can stand before its bombardment. Editors of American newspapers and publishers of American books! Take the ordination for such a magnificent service. Eloquence on yonder Capitol hill cannot meet the exigency. Epigrams of political platforms or in state legislatures will not hasten the desired consummation one week or one hour or one moment.

When Cubans and Porto Ricans and Filipinos see the morning and evening newspapers thrown into the doorways and hawked along the streets of Havana and Santiago and Manila, those who cannot read by the force of curiosity will learn to read, so that they may know what information is being scattered, and that which may be missionary effort at the start and carried on by Americans sent forth to do the work will soon be done by educated natives. Porto Rican editors! Porto Rican reporters! Porto Rican typesetters! Porto Rican publishers! It was a great mercy that gospel which is to save the world.

Religious Teaching Needed. Mark you well that statesmanship, feels of despotism, but it will be a mightier mercy to educate the people from ignorance and degradation. The expansion of the knowledge and intellectual qualifications of all those island regions is the desire of all intelligent Americans. Awake, all you schools and colleges and universities and printing presses, to your opportunity! Still further, here is a wide open door for Christianity. First of all, we have the leather nations are for the most part heathen. The American missionaries heretofore had great difficulty in getting heathendom to listen. They excited some comment by their attire, so different was the parting of the hair and the shape of the hat and the cut of the coat and the formation of the shoes of the evangelizers, but the questions constantly arose in regard to the missionary: "Who is he?" "What is he here for?" And then the interrogator would relax into the previous stupid indifference. But that condition of things has passed. The guns of our American navy have awakened those populations. They do not ask who we are. They have found out. They are now listening to what American civilization and our Christian religion have to say on any subject. Now is the time, while their ears and eyes are wide open, to tell them of the rescuing and salvable and inspiring power of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the world. The steam printing press and secular education plants here may be used and will be used to print religious newspapers and tracts and sermons and mighty discussions of questions temporal and eternal.

Influence of Homes. The comfortable homes of those populations, when Christianized, standing side by side with the degraded huts of those who remain pagans will be revolutionary for good. The Porto Rican and the Filipino will come out from this unclean and low roofed and unwholesome and say to his neighbor of beautiful household, "Why cannot I have things as you have them?" And when he finds that it is the Bible, with its teachings on family life and personal purity and exalted principle, and the church of God that proposes the rectification of all evil and the implantation of all good, he will cry out, "Give me the Bible, and the church, and the earthly alleviations, and the eternal hope which have wrought for you such transfiguration."

Now, church of God, now, all Christian philanthropists, is your opportunity! Nothing like it has occurred since Christ came. Perhaps there may be nothing like it till his second coming. Here is a definiteness of aim that is most helpful and inspiring. The millions of dollars given for the redemption of the world and the thousands of glorious missionaries who have as volunteers gone forth among barbaric nations were given and enlisted under a great and immeasurable idea. But when they came to add to the great and immeasurable idea the idea of definiteness we will infinitely augment the work. More than three hundred million of heathen in India, more than three hundred million of heathen in China and more millions outside of those countries sometimes stagger and confound and defeat our faith. But here in these islands of present controversy we can farm out the work among the churches and in five years, under the blessing of God, not only fit the people for the right of suffrage, but prepare them for usefulness and heaven. The difference between the general idea of the world's evangelization and some particularized field of evangelization is the difference between the improvement of agriculture among all nations and the improvement of 75 acres put under one's special care and industry. By all means let the general work go on. But here is the specific field for religious concentration and development. This is not chimerical or impractical. I read this morning that the American Missionary association of the Congregational church has already begun the work at San Juan, Trinidad and Albion, and the same denominations in six months will be in those island fields, and we all need with our prayers and contributions to cheer them on to take for God and righteousness those regions which our American navy has captured from Spanish perfidy.

It has been estimated that this Americano-Spanish war cost us \$300,000,000. It would not cost half of that to proclaim and carry on and consummate a holy war for the religious and archiepiscopal and satanic domination. Who will volunteer? I beat the drum of a recruiting station. Who will enlist under the one starred, blood striped banner of Immanuel? Cuba and Porto Rico and the Philippines are stepping stones for our American Christianity to cross over and take the round world for God. We need a new evangelistic alliance organized for this purpose. In all denominations there are those with large enough hearts and who have been thoroughly enough converted to join in putting aside all minor differences of opinion, "believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son," and who would march shoulder to shoulder in such a gospel campaign. The result would be that those islands, which are now a scene of degradation and would assure themselves, and some would be sprinkled in holy baptism and others would be immersed in those warm rivers and some would worship in religious assemblage silent as the Quaker meeting house, and others would have as many jubilant ejaculations as a backwoods camp meeting, and some of those who preached would be gowned and surpliced for the work, and others would stand in citizen's apparel or in their shirt sleeves preaching that gospel which is to save the world.

One Platform For All. But on this platform the so called expansionists and so called anti-expansionists will yet stand side by side. Though I am not a prophet or the son of a prophet, within five years, if this religious-educational work is properly attended to, there will be a Cuban republic, a Porto Rican republic and a Philippine republic, none of them on a large scale, but they will all have their schools and printing presses and evangelistic churches, their presidents, their senators and houses of representatives, their mayors and their constabularies, and as good order will be observed in their cities as now reigns on Pennsylvania avenue, Washington, or Broadway, New York.

Christ has started for the conquest of the nations, and nothing on earth or in hell can stop it. The continents are rapidly rolling into his dominion, and why not these islands, which for the most part are only fragments broken off from continents, at intervals lands which have been sunk by earthquakes, allowing the ocean to take mastery over them? Each mother continent has around it a whole family of little continents. If the continents are being so rapidly evangelized, why not Cuba and the Bahamas? If Asia, why not the Philippines and the Moluccas? If Europe, why not the Azores and the Orkneys and St. Helena? Why not Madagascar broke them off the mainland can lift them out into evangelization.

In the old book, which has become a new book by reason of modern discoveries, especial attention is called to the islands. "Declare the Lord's praise in the islands," commands Isaiah. "Let the multitude of the islands be glad thereof," says the psalmist. "All the islands of the heathen shall worship him," writes Zechariah. "He shall turn his face to the islands," prophesies Daniel. "The inhabitants of the isles shall be astonished at thee," foretells Ezekiel. "Hear it and declare it to the islands afar off," exclaims Jeremiah.

You see from this the islands are not to be neglected. Perhaps they are the Lord's favorites, as in households, if there is any favoritism at all, it is for the weakest. The islands, too small to be taken care of themselves, have the eternal God to take care of them. Let national look out how they tread on the islands, however small and weak, for they are omnipotently defended. They may not be able to marshal large armies or to send out natives to sweep the earth, but, better than that, they have the chariots of heaven on their side and the drawn swords of the Almighty. I

have as much faith in the salvation of the smallest island of the Falklands, of the Canaries, of the Ladrões, of the Carolines, of the Fijis, of the Barbadoes, of the Cape Verdes, of the Society Islands, as I have in the salvation of America.

The continents themselves are only larger islands, and the world in which we live is only a still larger island, and the solar system is a group of islands, and the universe is an archipelago straddled with islands of worlds, surrounded by the great ocean of infinitude and immensity. So you see when God planned the universe he diagrammed it into islands, and he will look after the interest of each of those islands, however small, and England and Holland and France and Germany and America must not treat the smallest and weakest island that comes under their sway any different from the way they treat the strongest nation of all the earth. God may chiefly deal with individuals in the next world, but he deals with nations only in this world, and when persistently a nation practices injustice against other people it is only a question of time when the offender will find his doom. The path of time is strewn with the carcasses of nations that because of their mismanagement of other nations perished. The higher such offending empires rise, the harder will be their fall.

Perpetuity of Our Government. I believe the United States government will last as long as the world lasts. I believe the fires of the judgment day will leap on the domes of our state and national capitals while yet they are in their full power. I believe the last earthquake will put its explosion under our national foundations while yet they stand firm. I believe that Republican and Democratic form of government will be the universal form of government for all nations when they have been evangelized, for then the nations will be capable of self government and will have demanded and secured that right. It will be either that or a theocracy, which will be the direct government of Christ in his personal reign on earth, as many Bible students believe. Yet that jubilant expectation is founded not on the skill of human statesmanship or human legislation, but upon the belief that this nation will submit to divine guidance and obey the divine law and carry out its divinely imposed mission. But if we defy the God of nations our doom is fixed.

It required the pen of an Edward Gibbon, through four great volumes of more than 500 pages each, to tell the story of "The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire," concluding his monumental work with the words, "It was almost the ruin of the capital that I first conceived the idea of a work which has amused and exercised near 20 years of my life, and which, however inadequate to my own wishes, I finally deliver to the curiosity and candor of the public." What, the Roman empire dead! Did she lack warriors? No. Behold her Pompey and her Julius Cæsar. Did she lack lawmakers and lawyers? No. Behold her Cicero and her Seneca. Did she lack judges and her jurists? No. Behold her Cicero and her Seneca. Did she lack the voices of her oratory and the chime of her cantos. But the day of judgment came for that nation, and Hannibal crossed the Apennines, and the Goths and Vandals swooped, and the Carthaginian fleet assailed and Numidian horsemen galloped, and nations combined, and Rome sank. The tourist now on the banks of the Tiber sees the ruins of her forum, the ruins of her coliseum, the ruins of her art, the ruins of her aqueducts, the ruins of her catacombs, the ruins of her palaces.

If our nation forgets its duty to other nations and practices injustice against other people, however insignificant, it will not take another Edward Gibbon 20 years and through four great volumes to tell the story of the decline and fall of American institutions. By so much as our opportunities have been greater than any nation that ever lived, and the mission to which she has been ordained is more stupendous than any bestowed by the Almighty upon any people, if we forget our God and enact wickedness our overthrow will be quicker and more tremendous, and yonder capitoline hill, with its architectural magnificence, will become a heap of gigantic ruins, to be visited by the people of other times and other nations, who will read in letters of crushed and crushed marble that which David wrote many hundred years ago upon parchment, "The way of the wicked he turneth upside down."

Garlands For Our Heroes. We concluded a few days ago the annual decoration of northern and southern graves. Three years ago, at this season, in memorial sermon I proposed the twisting of two garlands—one to be put upon the grave of the northern soldier and the other to be put on the grave of the southern soldier. But this year we need three garlands, the third to be put upon the grave of the Americano-Hispanic conflict. The third garland needs to be quite as fragrant and as radiant as the other two. These last heroes braved more than bayonets and bombshell. They braved the pestiferous breath of the tropics—whole battalions, whole regiments, whole brigades, whole armies of death-malaria. They confronted those oppositions of the torrid climes which no sword can pierce, no agility climb, no stratagem conquer. Under the awful charge of visible and invisible hosts about 6,000 men went down, some to

instant death and others through lingering pains in hospital.

If in this third wreath you twist the crimson rose, suggestive of sanguinary sacrifice, and the white calla lily, suggestive of glorious resurrection, put in also a few forget-me-nots, suggestive of remembrance, and a few passion flowers, suggestive of the love that mourns the slain, and a few heliotropes, suggestive of the fragrance of their memory. Then let the night's dew put the tears into the blue eyes of the violets, and all the soldiers' cimetaries be so many censers burning incense before the throne of that God who has been the friend of this nation from the time of Lexington to the time of San Juan Hill, from the guns of the United States warships Constitution and Constellation, at the beginning of this century, to the guns of the United States warships Olympia, Oregon, Brooklyn and other loaded thunders at the close of this century.

Remember here and now that those brave boys opened up the way for a kind of expansion we all believe in. They swung open the gates for the speedy gospelization of islands stupid with the superstition of ages. They cleared the way for missionaries and Bibles. They set those islands free. Leaving to the United States government to decide what shall be the political destiny of those peoples, let us all join in a campaign of religious expansion—expansion of affection that can take all the world in, expansion of our theologies until none shall reject their broad invitation, expansion of hope that embraces eternity as well as time, expansion of effort that will not cease till the whole earth is saved and the time arrives when the prophecy shall be fulfilled, and "they shall come from the north and the south and the east and the west and sit down in the kingdom of God, and the last shall be first and the first last."

Week before last, in this capital of the nation, we set three nights on fire in celebration of naval and military heroes, and there were rockets of fire, and wheels of fire, and showers of fire, and bombardments of fire, and ships of fire, and shells of fire, and three nights were three garlands of fire. But now we are in softer and quieter mood, and the three garlands of today are woven of blossoms and corollas of all colors and all pinnacles of aroma, and we bethink ourselves that this third garland was needed to chain together the northern garland of other decorative times to the southern garland of other decorative times. Floral chain of three lines! For the first time in 60 years the north and south stand in complete brotherhood. Heroes of Vermont and Alabama, of Massachusetts and South Carolina, of Maine and Louisiana, shoulder to shoulder! May that alliance remain until the last oppression is extirpated from the earth, and all nations stand in the liberty with which Christ would make all people free!

San Francisco Argonaut. in the early days in the northwest, when the Hudson Bay company laid the foundations of great fortunes by trade with the savages, and a gun paid for as many beaver skins as would reach to the muzzle of it, the skins packed flat and the gun held upright, it was alleged that the barrel of the weapon grew and grew with each successive year until the Indian, after he had bought it with the peltry, had to borrow a file and cut off a foot of useless metal.

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