TALMAGE IN CHICAGO

The Brooklyn Divine Preaches a Sermon About the Reformation of Bad Habits.

How the Force of Moral Gravitation Keeps People in Sinful Ways.

Power of Evil Habits—Society's Mistakes—How to Begin the Work of Reform.

Chicago, March 25. The Rev. T. DeWitt Talmage, D. D., pastor of the Tabernacle, Brooklyn, N. Y., preached here this evening. His subject was "Deliverance from Evil Habits," and his text, Proverbs xxiii. 35: "When shall I awake? I will seek it yet again." He said:—

With an insight into human nature as his no other man ever reached, so long ago in the text, sketches the mental operations of one who, having stepped aside into the path of rectitude, desires to return. With a wish for something better, he says: "When shall I awake? When shall I come out of this horrid condition of slavery?" He seized upon by a habit, and forced down by its powerful hand, and he says: "I will seek it yet again. I will try it once more."

Our readers are about to set with an elegant or rather address, beginning with the pilot, to the final declaration and perfection of the compass, maps of the voyage, showing all the rocks, the quicksands, the shoals. But suppose a man has already made shipwreck; suppose he is literally off the track; suppose he has already gone a mile; how is he to get back? That is a field comparatively untouched. I propose to address myself this evening to such. There are those in this audience who, with every passion of their immortal soul, are ready to hear this discussion. They compare themselves with what they were ten years ago, and cry out from the bondage in which they are incarcerated. Now, if there be any in the house, come with an earnest purpose, yet feeling they are beyond the pale of Christian sympathy and that the sermon can hardly be expected to address them, then, at this moment, I give them my right hand and call them brother. Look up. There is glorious and triumphant hope for you yet. I sound the trumpet of God's deliverance. The church is ready to spread a banquet at your return and the heralds of heaven to fall into line of jubilant possession at the news of your emancipation. So far as God may help me, I propose to show what are the obstacles of your return and then how you may surmount those obstacles.

The first difficulty in the way of your return is the force of moral gravitation. Just as there is a natural law which brings down a stone, and anything which you throw into the air, so there is a law respecting moral gravitation. In other words, it is easier to go down than it is to go up; it is easier to do wrong than it is to do right. Look in your own case, and of your kindred, and your neighbors, and your acquaintance, and you will see the truth of the statement. Why is it? I cannot tell. Why is it that water will run down hill? Why is it that a stone will fall? Why is it that a man will go down? Why is it that a man will go down? Why is it that a man will go down