

# ANEWROLE

Dr. Talmage Acts as a Footman

IND CLEARS THE WAY TOWARD SALVATION.

The eloquent Brooklyn Divine Preaches of Those Historic Days When the Jew Was Oppressed in Egypt.

The vast throng which assembled to hear Dr. Talmage, the famous Brooklyn preacher, filled the tabernacle to an overflowing point and many were turned away. The subject of the sermon was "Bricks without straw," it being a continuation of the series on the confirmation of Holy Scripture which Dr. Talmage found in his journey from the Pyramids to the Acropolis. His text was Isaiah xix, 1. "The Burden of Egypt." The eloquent preacher said:

What is all this excitement about in the streets of Cairo, Egypt, this December morning in 1889? Stand back. We hear loud voices and see the crowds of people retreating to the sides of the street. The excitement of others becomes our own excitement. Footmen come in sight. They have a rod in the hand and tasseled cap on head, and their arms and feet are bare. Their garb is black to the waist, except as threaded with gold, and the rest is white. They are clearing the way for an official dignitary in a chariot or carriage. They are wifey and sometimes run thirty or forty miles at a stretch, in front of an equipage. Make way! They are the fleetest men on earth, but soon die, for the human frame was not made for such endurance.

BEGINNING OF SLAVERY IN EGYPT.

Then began slavery in Egypt. The government owned all the Hebrews. And let modern lunatics who, in America, propose handing over telegraph companies and railroads and other things to be run by government set the folly of letting government get its hand on everything. I would rather trust the people than any government the United States ever had or will have. Woe worth the day when legislators and congresses and administrations get possession of anything more than it is necessary for them to have.

THE OPPRESSION STILL GOES ON.

That oppression still goes on. Demand of your wife appropriate wardrobe and bountiful table without providing the means necessary—bricks without straw. Cities demanding in the public schools faithful and successful instruction without giving the teachers competent livelihood—bricks without straw. United States government demanding of senators and congressmen at Washington full attendance to the interest of the people, but on compensation which may have done well enough when twenty-five cents went as far as dollar now, but in these times not sufficient to preserve their influence and respectability—bricks without straw.

THESE ARE STILL PHARAOHS.

When was help to come from? Now the throne, Pharaoh sat upon that. Now the army, Pharaoh's officers commanded that. Not surrounding stations, Pharaoh's threat made them all tremble. Not the gods Ammon and Osiris or the goddess Isis, for Pharaoh built their temples out of the groans of this diabolical servitude. But one hot day the princess Thonoris, the daughter of Pharaoh, while in her bathing house on the bank of the Nile, has word brought her that there is a baby afloat on the river in a cradle made out of big leaves.

Of course there is excitement all torn up and down the banks, for an ordinary baby in an ordinary cradle attracts smiling attention, but an infant in a cradle of papyrus rocking on a river srouses not only admiration, but curiosity. Who made that boat? Why made it water tight with bitumen? Why launched it? Reckless of the crocodiles who lay basking themselves in the sun the maidens wade in and snatch up the child, and first one carries him and then another carries him, and all the way up the bank he runs a gauntlet of caresses till Thonoris rushes out of the bathing house and says: "Beautiful foundling, I will adopt you as my own. You shall wear the Egyptian crown and sit on the Egyptian throne."

NO! NO! NO! He is to be the emancipator of the Hebrews. Tell it in all the brick kilns. Tell it among all those who are writhing under the lash, tell it among all the castles of Memphis and Heliopolis and Zoan and Thebes. Before him a sea will part. On a mountain top, alone, this one will receive from the Almighty a law that is to be the foundation of all good law while the world lasts. When he is dead, God will come down on Nebo and alone bury him, no man or woman or angel worthy to attend the obsequies.

THE CHILD GROWS UP AND GOES OUT AND STUDIES THE HORRORS OF EGYPTIAN OPPRESSION AND SUPPRESSES HIS INDIGNATION, FOR THE RIGHT TIME HAS NOT COME, ALTHOUGH ONCE FOR A MINUTE HE LET FLY, AND WHEN HE SAW A TASKMASTER PUT THE WHIP ON THE BACK OF A WORKMAN WHO WAS DOING HIS BEST, AND HEARD THE POOR FELLOW CRY AND SAW THE BLOOD SPURT, MOSES DROPPED UP HIS FIST AND STRUCK HIM ON THE TEMPLE TILL THE CRUEL VILLAIN ROLLED OVER IN THE SAND EXAMINATE AND NEVER SWUNG THE LASH AGAIN. SERVED HIM RIGHT!

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But, Moses, are you going to undertake the impossibilities? You feel that you are going to free the Hebrews from bondage. But where is your army? Where is your navy? Not a sword have you, not a spear, not a chariot, not a horse. Ah! God was on his side, and he has an army of his own. The snowstorms are on God's side; witness the snowbanks in which the French army invaded were buried on their way back from Moscow. The rain is on his side; witness the 18th of June at Waterloo, when the tempest so saturated the road that the attack could not be made on Wellington's forces until eleven o'clock, and he was strong enough to hold out re-enforcements arrived.

THE BURDEN OF OPPRESSION WAS LIFTED.

Indeed, Africa is a great continent for deserts. Libyan desert, Sahara desert, deserts here and there and yonder, condemning vast regions of Africa to barrenness, one of the desert three thousand miles long and a thousand miles wide. But all those deserts will yet be flooded, and so made fertile. De Lesseps says it can be done, and he who planned the Suez canal, which marries the Red Sea and the Mediterranean, knows what he is talking about.

THE STEP RECENTLY TAKEN BY THE CROWN PRINCESS OF GREECE.

The step recently taken by the crown princess of Greece of uniting with the Greek Church has received the sanction of the Empress Frederick and Queen Victoria, the mother and grandmother of the princess. They hold that she should belong to the church in which her children will be reared.

per cent. of what the Egyptian farmer makes is paid for taxes to the government. Now, that is not so much taxation as assassination. What think you of that, you who groan under heavy taxes in America? I have heard that in Egypt the working people have a song like this: "They starve us, they starve us, they beat us, they beat us; but there is some one above, there's some one above, who will punish them well, who will punish them well!" But seventy per cent. of government tax in Egypt is a mercy as compared to what the Hebrew slaves suffered there in Bible times. They got nothing but food hardly fit for a dog, and their clothing was of rags, and their roof a burning sky by day and the stars of heaven by night.

You say, "Why did they stand it?" Because they had to stand it. You see along back in the world's twilight there was a famine in Canaan, and old Jacob and his sons came into Egypt for bread. The old man's boy, Joseph, was prime minister, and Joseph—I suppose the father and the brothers called him Joe, for it does not make any difference how much a boy is advanced in worldly success, his father and brothers and sisters always call him by the same name that he was called by when two years old—Joseph, by Pharaoh's permission gave to his family, who had just arrived, the richest part of Egypt, the Westchester farms or the Lancaster farms of the ancients. Jacob's descendants rapidly multiplied.

After awhile Egypt took a turn at a famine, and those descendants of Jacob, the Israelites, came to a great storehouse which Joseph had provided, and paid in money for corn. But after awhile the money gave out and then they paid in cattle. After awhile the cattle were all in possession of the government and their Hebrews bought corn from the government by surrendering themselves as slaves.

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THE HUMAN RACE IS SO MULTIPLIED THAT IT MUST HAVE MORE CULTIVATED LAND, AND THE WORLD MUST ABOLISH ITS DESERTS.

EIGHT HUNDRED MILLIONS OF THE HUMAN RACE ARE NOW LIVING ON LANDS NOT BLESSED WITH RAINS, BUT DEPENDENT ON IRRIGATION, TO MAKE ROOM FOR EIGHT HUNDRED MILLIONS MORE. BY IRRIGATION THE PROPHECY WILL BE FULFILLED, AND "THE DESERT WILL BLOSSOM AS THE ROSE." SO FROM EGYPT THE BURDEN OF OPPRESSION WAS LIFTED.

THE BURDEN OF MOHAMMEDANISM.

Another burden of Egypt to be lifted is the burden of Mohammedanism, although there are some good things about that religion. Its disciples must always wash before they pray, and that is five times a day. A commendable grace is cleanliness. Strong drink is positively forbidden by Mohammedanism, and though some may have seen a drunker Mohammedan, I never saw one. It is a religion of sobriety. Then they are not ashamed of their devotions. When called for prayers is sounded from the minarets the Mohammedan immediately enrolls the rug on the ground and falls on his knees, and crowds of spectators are to him no embarrassment—reproach to many a Christian who omits his prayers if people are looking.

THE BURDEN OF SIN.

But Mohammedanism, with its polygamy, blights everything it touches. Mohammed, its founder, had four wives and his followers are the enemies of good-womanhood. Mohammedanism puts its stamp on all Egypt, and by setting up sinful Arab higher than the immaculate Christ, is an overwhelming blasphemy. May God help the brave and consecrated missionaries who are spending their lives in combating it.

THE BURDEN OF SIN.

But before I forget it I must put more emphasis upon the fact that the last outrage that resulted in the liberation of the Hebrews was their being compelled to make bricks without straw. That was the last straw that broke the camel's back. God would allow the despotism against his people to go no farther. Making bricks without straw!

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