

TALMAGE'S SERMON.

Washington, D. C., Oct. 4, 1896.—We send this out, one of the most unique sermons Dr. Talmage ever preached. It is as novel as wide-sweeping and practical. His subject is, "Dying Chirography," the text being, "Luke 10: 20: 'Rejoice because your names are written in heaven.'"

Do you not see the tremor in the lines? Do you not also see the boldness of the letters? Is it not as plain as your throne, as plain as your scepter, as plain as your crown, as plain as your hand writing unmistakable? and the handwriting unmistakable? and the handwriting unmistakable? and the handwriting unmistakable?

ing soon shuffled out by human foot, the time that he stooped down and with his finger wrote on the ground the hypocrisy of the hypocrites. But when he writes your name in the heavenly archives, as I believe he has or hope he may, it is to stay there from age to age, from cycle to cycle, from aeon to aeon. And so for all you Christian people I do what John G. Whit-tier, the dying poet, said he wanted done in his home. Lovingly may I sat with him in a study now a whole summer afternoon, and heard him tell the story of his life. He had for many years been troubled with insomnia and was a very poor sleeper, and he always had the window curtain of his room up so as to see the first intimation of sunrise. When he was breathing his last, in the morning hour, in his home in the Massachusetts village, the nurse thought that the light of the rising sun was too strong for him, and so pulled the window curtain down. The last thing the great Quaker poet did was to wave his hand to have the curtain up. He wanted to depart in the full flush of the morning. And I thought it might be helpful and inspiring to all Christian souls to have more light about the future, and so I pull up the curtain in the glorious sunrise of my text and say, "Rejoice that your names are written in heaven." Bring on your dologies! Wave your palms! Shout your victories! Pull up all the curtains of your bright expectations! Yea! hoist the "morning glories" of the King's garden come in, and the music of Moses' all-tremble with symphonies, and the sound of the surf of seas dashing to the foot of the throne of God and the Lamb.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

LESSON II—OCT II—SOLOMON'S WISE CHOICE. Golden Text: "The Fear of the Lord is the Beginning of Wisdom"—Psalm 111:10 What Shall We Choose for Ourselves? Our last lesson we studied Solomon's way to the kingdom and lesson, and left him firmly seated on the throne. To-day we see the source of his great power and success in the choice that was presented to him at the beginning of his reign, and his choosing that which was wise and right. Instead of that which might naturally seem more desirable to an ambitious young man. The lesson to be taught is found in the different objects set before every person at the beginning of life, and the reasons and motives for so choosing. Every argument, illustration and example should be employed to persuade each scholar to choose the right choice and to make it now. The section includes 1 Kings 3: 1-5; the parallel, 2 Chronicles 1: 1-7; Kings 4: 29; and the Scripture texts given below. Time, B. C. 1015, the early part of Solomon's reign. Place, Gibeon, a high hill six miles north of Jerusalem, now called El-Jib. Here was the ancient tabernacle constructed by Moses (2 Chron. 1: 3). Solomon, 15 or 20 years old. To-day's lesson includes 1 Kings 3-5, as follows: 3. "The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream." It was probably at the close of this season of worship, when his mind was elevated into a high state of religious fervor by the protracted services. "And God said, Ask what thou wilt. As there is no limitation in the implied offer, and absolutely unlimited range of choice is here, placed before Solomon. 4. "Thou hast asked unto thy servant David my father, and great mercy." It was all no claim, and put forth none. It was all mercy. "According as he walked before thee in truth." It is not a reward for the true worship of the true God. "That thou hast given him a son to sit on his throne." It is a great favor to have God's blessings go on to the next generation, and thus to make our influence for good enduring. 5. "Thou hast chosen wisdom, and by He was chosen by God to be king, and God of God's prophet he had gained the throne. "And I am but a little child." He was young and inexperienced compared with his father, who had spent twelve years of special training, and seven more as king over a small kingdom. "I know not how to go out or come in: neither do I have discretion for the conduct of affairs." (See Num. 27: 17; Deut. 28: 6; 1 Sam. 18: 13)—Cook. "Which thou hast chosen." It was not only a great nation, but the nation chosen to represent God before the world, and carry on his kingdom, and teach the world his truths. "A great people, that cannot be numbered." There seems to be a reference in these words to the promise made to Abraham, more especially to Genesis 15: 5. 6. "Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart." There were two directions in one or the other of which a young king's desires would naturally lead. "To judge thy people." Administer the government in all its departments. "I may discern between good and bad." I. e. right and wrong, justice and injustice, what plans are good for the people, and what are bad. "For we are able to enjoy the heat thereof." The larger the number of people the more wisdom and ability it required to govern them. "And the speech pleased the Lord." Why? (1) It was right, noble, unselfish, like God himself. (2) It rendered it possible for God to give him large measure of wisdom. (3) It was a promise. (4) It was a promise to give him all the things that were before thee. Both in his heart and in his hand. "Here he continued the sacrificial feast. 11. "Because thou hast... not asked for thyself." He had not selfishly given glory to himself, but to the people. 12. "Lo, I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart," for which he had asked. See 1 Kings 3: 16, and 4: 24, together with the descriptions of Solomon's temple and palaces, governmental plans and commerce. So that he was a man like the world before thee. He had been literally fulfilled in history. He had wisdom and understanding exceeding much, and largeness of heart, even as David that is on the throne. 13. "I have also given thee that which thou hast not asked." Here we see the striking illustration of the wisdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you. (Matt. 6: 33; Luke 11: 28; Col. 3: 23). Both in his heart and in his hand. "Here he continued the sacrificial feast. 14. "And it thou wilt walk in my ways... I will lengthen thy days." The promise here is only of condition. As he did not observe (1 Kings 11: 1-9), the right to promise was forfeited, and it was not fulfilled. He died at the age of sixty, ten years younger than his father. 15. "And Solomon awoke, and behold it was a dream." But the results were real, because what he did in the dream he actually chose. "And he came to Jerusalem," his home, and the other sanctuary where the ark was placed. Here he continued the sacrificial feast. Practical.—The case, as presented here, is good both for proof and for illustration of the principle that when men choose as unasked gratuities, the best gifts—God loves not only to give these best things thus preferably and supremely sought, but to throw in the lesser things as unasked gratuities—the best heart and chief endeavor to seeking the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and to use to the filling of our hearts with earthly good as may be best for you.

FARGO'S DIVORCE INDUSTRY.

It Eaze the Town About a Quarter of a Million Dollars Annually. North Dakota has gained considerable notoriety through the east for the ease with which divorces are secured within its borders, says the Minneapolis Journal. Fargo has more fame in this direction than any other town, for various reasons. It is most easily reached and affords the pleasure-loving contingent greater opportunities. Grand Forks. Its hotels are new and up to date and there are numerous private boarding houses that cater especially to those who are here to end their marital troubles. The modus operandi is simple. In nine cases out of ten the defendant in the suit is as willing that a decree should be secured as the plaintiff and aids in every possible way by accepting service and employing a local legal light to look after his interests. In such cases the decree is often secured within ten days after the ninety-day probation has expired. In fact, it has sometimes occurred that the divorce was granted within ninety-one days after the applicant arrived in Fargo. In these cases, of course, personal service was secured and there was no contest in the way of alimony. In cases of desertion or in others where the residence of the defendant is unknown, six weeks additional is required for the publication of summons. The attorneys' fee varies from \$50 to any higher amount with the trouble necessary to secure the decree and the ability of the plaintiff to pay. The colony includes people in all walks of life. Even laboring men come to Fargo and work while establishing their residence. These are the exception, however. The seekers after single blessedness are, as a rule, well supplied with funds and able to pay liberally for what they get. Some distinguished people have been temporary residents of the state and are men and women in all walks of life, and titled foreigners are not an exception. Another noticeable feature is the haste with which some of the plaintiffs again rush heading into a divorce. One case is on record where a trip was made directly from the judge's chambers to the license room and return and the second marriage performed by the kindly court in fifteen minutes after the decree had been granted and before the ink used in signing the divorce papers had time to dry. Indeed, the majority marry again within six months after being divorced. All kinds of schemes are worked to avoid publicity. Members of the colony often live here under assumed names and do everything possible to keep correspondents of eastern friends from learning their history. To deceive their friends the continent sometimes rents boxes in the Moorhead postoffice, across the river in Minnesota, so eastern friends won't know what they are doing out west.

PABST BEER advertisement with logo and text: 'The... Acknowledged superiority of Pabst Milwaukee BEER'.

Celery Boxes advertisement: 'Gardeners, Please bear in mind that in our box factory we manufacture Celery Boxes Onion and Potato Crates. Our Specialty is a Matched Pine Celery Box. See our goods and get our prices before buying. We always carry a full line of LUMBER, Lath, Shingles, Sash, Doors, Blinds, and Dry Stock. Write us or call at the yards, north end of Lake Shore Railway Yards, Tecumseh, and get our prices.'

Temple, McClure & Co. advertisement: 'Now is the time to Buy LUMBER FOR YOUR FALL BUILDING and REPAIRING, and when you get ready to buy it, don't fail to go to SMITH & ADAMS, The Lumber Headquarters for Southern Michigan, 401 to 429 North Jackson Street, JACKSON, MICH.'

McCormick's Masterpieces advertisement: 'McCormick's Masterpieces "THE-THREE KINGS" OF THE HARVEST FIELD. THE "OPEN ELEVATOR" King of all Grain Harvesters. THE No. 4 STEEL MOWER King of all Grass Cutters. THE "CORN BINDER" King of all Corn Harvesters. Come In and See Them! They Are Matchless! AT THE WORLD'S FAIR they were the only ones IN EVERY TEST they prove their superiority. IN EVERY LAND they lead the leaders. We have satisfied ourselves that McCormick's Machines are the lightest, most durable and most reliable grain and grass cutters built by any manufacturer. We believe they are the cheapest machines a farmer can own. If experience has proven anything, it has proven this. We believe a careful examination of them will convince any man that they are placed with a mechanical safety and get together with a degree of care far ahead of that shown in any other make of harvesting machinery. We want all interested parties to come and see them. Guaranteed to work where others fail. Wurster Bros. & Co.'

RINGS AND RING LORE.

Cromwell's ring bore his crest, a lion rampant. Betrothal rings were used in Europe in the ninth century. Every Roman freeman was entitled to wear an iron ring. The finger ring was the earliest ornament worn by man. Wedding rings were used in Egypt 3,000 years before Christ. Augustus wore a ring charm to protect him from thunderstorms. Roman ambassadors sent abroad wore gold rings as a part of their state dress. The state ring of the pope is set with a large cameo bearing the portrait of Christ. Early Celtic rings were made in interlaced work, often of very intricate patterns. The ring of the Jewish priest was invested by tradition with many mystic powers. When peers are created in Great Britain a ring is used during the ceremony of investiture.



MRS. TILLINGHAM. fair. Politics is not a foreign subject to her, as her father was a judge and used to discuss politics at the family table. She says it is not embarrassing to address audiences of men, for as soon as she discovers the speaker knows something, though a woman, they settle down respectfully. Mrs. Tillingham did not have to enter the lecture field, but she thinks it one has clear ideas and patriotic impulses and does not voice them he or she is a coward. "When one's convictions are strong enough to sway others and to really count," she says, "one will work and speak because the inward moral necessity is so great that they must." Honoring a Town. Belfort, the eastern gate of France, and Rambervillers, in the Vosges mountains, have just received the cross of the Legion of Honor, which will be emblazoned on the town arms, in honor of the gallant resistance the people made to the Germans twenty-five years ago. Altogether nine towns in France now have the cross of the Legion of Honor on their coat of arms.—Sketch. Were Not Easy Beds. A German savant finds, on investigation, that most centenarians are people who have practiced the late to bed and late to rise theory. E. A. MacDowell, the American composer, has been appointed to the head of the new musical department in Columbia college. He is of the same age as Paderewski, and the New York Post says of him that he "has no superior among the living composers of Europe."

THE CAPTAIN'S DECK ON ICE.

An army officer stationed in Washington a summer wintered just now, and his better-half and the children are enjoying the heated term at a watering place. The officer, notwithstanding his enforced term of bereavement, dresses as immaculately as ever and is very fond of appearing in spottish linen, particularly in the evening. When he came home from his daily labor the other afternoon the colored cook, for he keeps a bachelor hall, approached him deferentially and said: "Cap'n, does ye want de ducks fer breakfast, an' how does ye want 'em cooked—roast' or how?" "Ducks," exclaimed the master of the house, in surprise, "I don't want any ducks this time of year, and I didn't order any." "Well, dey is heah jes de same. A man bring 'em dis mawnin', and I said: 'Wat's dem?' and de man said: 'Ducks fer de cap'n.' An' I tuk 'em and put 'em on de ice terrectly, for dis hot spell don't no kind o' poultry no good. An' I kep 'em right on de ice all day." Thereupon the captain was escorted to the refrigerator and saw a very limp but carefully tied bundle containing his now white duck suit, in which he intended to appear that evening. He didn't say much.—Washington Star.

Runs a Saloon on Wheels.

Jake Pierce has discovered a way of evading the Kansas prohibition law. He has built a saloon on wheels. In the rear end of the wagon is a door big enough to permit a glass of liquor to be passed out. He drives around over the country supplying 'thirsty farmers and when pursued by 'shirsy simply moves across a county 'line and avoids arrest.—Exchange.

Society Note.

Mrs. Noshape—We will have to discharge our coachman. He mistook me for the cook in the dark hallway last night and kissed me. Mr. Noshape—He is in hard luck, but I can sympathize with him. I made that same mistake myself the other night. Isn't it about as bad to rob a man of his coach as it is of his money? The revival that is followed by cutting down the preacher's salary didn't begin right.

There is not on earth an autograph letter or signature of Christ.

The only time he wrote out a word on earth, though he knew so well how to write, he wrote with reference to having...

