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TALMAGE'S SERMON.

THE CHARM OF EXALTED RELIGION THE SUBJECT.

From Job XXVIII—"The Crystal Cannot Equal It"—Preparation for Eternal Treasures Should Begin Early in the Material World—Open the Door to Christ.

[Copyright, 1901, by Louis Klopsch, N. Y.] Washington, Oct. 6.—The charm of an exalted religion is by Dr. Talmage in this discourse illustrated and commended; text, Job xxviii, 17, "The crystal cannot equal it."

Many of the precious stones of the Bible have come to prompt recognition. But for the present I take up the less valuable crystal. Job, in my text, compares saving wisdom with a specimen of topaz. An infidel chemist or mineralogist would pronounce the latter worth more than the former, but Job makes an intelligent comparison, looks at religion and then looks at the crystal and pronounces the former as of far superior value to the latter, exclaiming, in the words of my text, "The crystal cannot equal it."

Now, it is not a part of my sermonic design to depreciate the crystal, whether it be found in Cornish mine or Harz mountain or Mammoth cave or tinkling among the pendants of the chandeliers of a palace. The crystal is the star of the mountain; it is the queen of the cave; it is the eardrop of the hills; it finds its heaven in the diamond. Among all the pages of natural history there is no page more interesting to me than the page crystallographic. But I want to show you that Job was right when, taking religion in one hand and the crystal in the other, he declared that the former is of far more value and beauty than the latter, recommending it to all people and to all the ages, declaring "The crystal cannot equal it."

God's Immutability Laws.

In the first place, I remark that religion is superior to the crystal in exactness. That shapeless mass of crystal against which you accidentally dashed your foot is laid out with more exactness than any earthly city. There are six styles of crystallization and all of them divinely ordained. Every crystal has mathematical precision. God's geometry reaches through it, and it is a square, or it is a rectangle, or it is a rhomboid, or in some way it has a mathematical figure. Now, religion beats that in the simple fact that spiritual accuracy is more beautiful than material accuracy. God's attributes are exact, God's laws exact, God's decrees exact, God's management of the world exact. Never counting wrong, though he counts the grass blades and the stars and the sands and the cycles. His providences never dealing with us perpendicularly when those providences ought to be oblique, nor laterally when they ought to be vertical. Everything in our life arranged without any possibility of mistake. Each life a six-headed prism. Born at the right time; dying at the right time. There are no "happen-so's" in our theology. If I thought this was a slipshod universe, I would be in despair. God is not an anarchist. Law, order, symmetry, precision, a perfect square, a perfect rectangle, a perfect rhomboid, a perfect circle. The edge of God's robe of government never frays out. There are no loose screws in the world's machinery. It did not just happen that Napoleon was attacked with indigestion at Borodino so that he became incompetent for the day. It did not just happen that John Thomas, the missionary, on a heathen island, waiting for an outfit and orders for another missionary tour, received that outfit and those orders in a box that floated ashore, while the ship and the crew that carried the box were never heard of. I believe in a particular providence. I believe God's geometry may be seen in all our life more beautifully than in crystallography. Job was right. "The crystal cannot equal it."

More Transparent Than Crystal.

Again I remark that religion is superior to the crystal in transparency. We know not when or by whom glass was first discovered. Beads of it have been found in the tomb of Alexander Severus. Vases of it are brought up from the ruins of Herculaneum. There were female adornments made out of it 3,000 years ago—those adornments found now attached to the mummies of Egypt. A great many commentators believe that my text means glass. What would we do without the crystal? The crystal in the window to keep out the storm and let in the day; the crystal over the watch, defending its delicate machinery yet allowing us to see the hour; the crystal of the telescope, by which the astronomer brings distant worlds so near he can inspect them. Oh the triumphs of the crystals in the celebrated windows of Rouen and Salisbury! But there is nothing so transparent in crystal as in our holy religion. It is a transparent religion. You put it to your eye and you see man—his sin, his soul, his

destiny. You look at God and you see something of the grandeur of his character. It is a transparent religion. Infidels tell us it is opaque. Do you know why they tell us it is opaque? It is because they are blind. "The natural man receiveth not the things of God because they are spiritually discerned." There is no trouble with the crystal. The trouble is with the eyes which try to look through it. We pray for vision. Lord, that our eyes might be opened! When the eye salve cures our blindness, then we find that religion is transparent.

Preparation for Eternal Treasures.

The providence that was dark before becomes pellucid. Now you find God is not trying to put you down. Now you understand why you lost that child and why you lost your property. It was to prepare you for eternal treasures. And why sickness came, it being the precursor of immortal juvenescence. And now you understand why they lied about you and tried to drive you hither and thither. It was to put you in the glorious company of such a man as Ignatius, who, when he went out to be destroyed by the lions, said, "I am the wheat, and the teeth of the wild beasts must first grind me before I can become pure bread for Jesus Christ." Or the company of such men as "that ancient Christian martyr" who, when standing in the midst of the amphitheater waiting for the lions to come out of their cave and destroy him and the people in the galleries jeering and shouting, "The lions!" replied, "Let them come on!" and then, stooping down toward the cave, where the wild beasts were roaring to get cut, again cried, "Let them come on!" Ah, yes, it is persecution to put you in glorious company, and while there are many things you will have to postpone to the future world for explanation I tell you that it is the whole tendency of your religion to unravel and explain and interpret and illuminate and irradiate. Job was right. It is a glorious transparency. "The crystal cannot equal it."

Harmony and Symmetry.

Beautiful in its symmetry. When it presents God's character, it does not present him as having love like a great protuberance on one side of his nature, but makes that love in harmony with his justice—a love that will accept all those who come to him, and a justice that will by no means clear the guilty. Beautiful religion in the sentiment it implants! Beautiful religion in the hope it kindles! Beautiful religion in the fact that it proposes to garland and enthrone and emparadise an immortal spirit. Solomon says it is a lily. Paul says it is a crown. The Apocalypse says it is a fountain kissed by the sun. Ezekiel says it is a foliaged cedar. Christ says it is a bridegroom come to fetch home a bride. While Job in the text takes up a whole vase of precious stones—the topaz and the sapphire and the chryso-prasus—he holds out of this beautiful vase just one crystal and holds it up until it gleams in the warm light of the eastern sky, and he exclaims, "The crystal cannot equal it."

Oh, it is not a stale religion; it is not a stupid religion; it is not a toothless hag, as some seem to have represented it; it is not a Meg Merrilies with shriveled arm come to scare the world; it is the fairest daughter of God, heiress of all his wealth; her cheek the morning sky, her voice the music of the south wind, her step the dance of the sea. Come and woo her. The Spirit and the Bride say come, and whosoever will, let him come. Do you agree with Solomon and say it is a lily? Then pluck it and wear it over your heart. Do you agree with Paul and say it is a crown? Then let this hour be your coronation. Do you agree with the Apocalypse and say it is a springing fountain? Then come and slake the thirst of your soul. Do you believe with Ezekiel and say it is a foliaged cedar? Then come under its shadow. Do you believe with Christ and say it is a bridegroom come to fetch home a bride? Then strike hands with your Lord and King while I pronounce you everlastingly one. Or if you think with Job that it is a jewel, then put it on your hand like a ring, on your neck like a bead, on your forehead like a star, while looking into the mirror of God's word you acknowledge, "The crystal cannot equal it."

Superior to Crystal.

Again, religion is superior to the crystal in its transformations. The diamond is only a crystallization. Carbonate of lime rises till it becomes calcite or aragonite. Red oxide of copper crystallizes into cubes and octahedrons. Those crystals which adorn our persons and our homes and our museums have only been resurrected from forms that were far from lustrous. Scientists for ages have been examining these wonderful transformations. But I tell you in the gospel of the Son of God there is a more wonderful transformation. Over souls by reason of sin black as coal and hard as iron God, by his comforting grace, stoops and says, "They shall be mine in the day when I make up my jewels."

What!

"What!" say you. "Will God wear jewelry?" If he wanted it, he could

make the stars of the heaven his belt and have the evening cloud for the sandals of his feet, but he does not want that adornment. He will not have that jewelry. When God wants jewelry, he comes down and digs it out of the depths and darkness of sin. These souls are all crystallizations of mercy. He puts them on, and he wears them in the presence of the whole universe. He wears them on the hand that was nailed, over the heart that was pierced, on the temples that were stung. "They shall be mine," saith the Lord, "in the day when I make up my jewels." Wonderful transformation! Where sin abounded grace shall much more abound. The carbon becomes the solitaire. "The crystal cannot equal it."

Now, I have no liking for those people who are always enlarging in Christian meetings about their early dissipation. Do not go into the particulars, my brothers. Simply say you were sick, but make no display of your ulcers. The chief stock in trade of some ministers and Christian workers seem to be their early crimes and dissipation. The number of pockets you picked and the number of chickens you stole make very poor prayer meeting rhetoric. Besides that, it discourages other Christian people who never got drunk or stole anything. But it is pleasant to know that those who were farthest down have been brought highest up. Out of infernal serfdom into eternal liberty. Out of darkness into light. From coal to the solitaire. "The crystal cannot equal it."

Power of the Gospel.

But, my friends, the chief transforming power of the gospel will not be seen in this world, and not until heaven breaks upon the soul. When that light falls upon the soul, then you will see the crystals. What a magnificent setting for these jewels of eternity! I sometimes hear people representing heaven in a way that is far from attractive to me. It seems almost a vulgar heaven as they represent it, with great blotches of color and bands of music making a deafening racket. John represents heaven as exquisitely beautiful. Three crystals! In one place he says, "Her light was like a precious stone, clear as crystal." In another place he says, "I saw a pure river from under the throne, clear as crystal." In another place he says, "Before the throne there was a sea of glass clear as crystal." Three crystals! John says crystal atmosphere. That means health. Balm of the eternal June. What weather after the world's east wind! No rack of storm-clouds. One breath of that air will cure the worst tubercle. Crystal light on all the leaves, crystal light shimmering on the topaz of the temples. Crystal light tossing in the plumes of the equestrians of heaven on white horses. But "the crystal cannot equal it." John says crystal river. That means joy. Deep and ever rolling. Not one drop of the Potomac or the Hudson or the Rhine to soil it. No one tear of human sorrow to imbitter it. Crystal, the rain out of which it was made. Crystal, the bed over which it shall roll and ripple. Crystal, its infinite surface. But "the crystal cannot equal it." John says crystal sea. That means multitudinously vast. Vast in rapture. Rapture vast as the sea deep as the sea, strong as the sea ever changing as the sea. Billows of light. Billows of beauty, blue with skies that were never clouded and green with depths that were never fathomed. Arctic and Antarctic and Mediterranean and Atlantic and Pacific in crystalline magnificence. Three crystals! Crystal light falling on a crystal river. Crystal river rolling into a crystal sea. But "the crystal cannot equal it."

Open the Door to Christ.

"Oh," says some one, "it is just the doctrine I want. God is to do every thing, and I am to do nothing." My brother, it is not the doctrine you want. The coal makes no resistance. It hears the resurrection voice in the mountain and it comes to crystallization; but your heart resists. The trouble with you, my brother, is the coal wants to stay coal.

I do not ask you to throw open the door and let Christ in. I only ask that you stop bolting it and barring it. My friends, we will have to get rid of our sins. I will have to get rid of my sins, and you will have to get rid of your sins. What will we do with our sins among the three crystals? The crystal atmosphere would display our pollution. The crystal river would be befouled with our touch. Transformation must take place now or no transformation at all. Give sin full chance in your heart and the transformer will be downward instead of upward. Instead of crystal it will be a cinder.

What Secretary Root Said.

"Senator, you seem to forget that war itself is a hard, a dreadful thing; yet our old men clamor for it and our young men rush into it as if it were a holiday amusement. The executive does not declare war. When our wise men and popular leaders in the Congress of the United States plunge us into it, do they pause to think of the aged mothers and their tears and their breaking hearts?"—Boston Evening Transcript.

DAIRY AND POULTRY.

INTERESTING CHAPTERS FOR OUR RURAL READERS.

How Successful Farmers Operate This Department of the Farm—A Few Hints as to the Care of Live Stock and Poultry.

Broad Tape Worm of Sheep.

It is said that this tape worm, known technically as taenia expansa, came to this country from Europe, yet it is now one of the most common parasites of sheep. While it is usually associated with other parasites in the intestines of the sheep, it must be regarded as the cause of considerable injury and even fatality. It is easily recognized on account of its breadth and great length. It may exceed five yards in length and at the broadest part is from one-half to three-fourths of an inch wide. It tapers away to a fine point at the head, and this part of the worm is of strong texture, so that the head and neck feel like a thorn, or in larger worms in other animals like a wire nail. We notice it most in fall and winter, but it is really present in the intestines at all times of the year, constantly maturing segments which pass away in the droppings and spread infection to other sheep. As the conditions in the spring and summer are very favorable for the existence of the embryo outside of the body, sheep may become badly infested at this time and show symptoms of the presence of the tape worms in late summer or fall. Low wet pastures are supposed to be most favorable for producing tape worm diseases, but we should most fear the pasture that has been years in grass and over-pastured by sheep year after year. The only way of determining that sheep are infested with tape worms, apart from post mortem examination, is the appearance of the joints or segments in the manure. Unless a number of the parasites are present no indication of disease will be observed, but when present in considerable numbers in young lambs emaciation is speedy and may prove fatal. Dr. Courtice mentions finding fourteen adult worms in one lamb four months old, and that the number of individuals present may be from 2 or 3 to 100. It is seldom, however, that more than five or six are observed. Symptoms of disease do not appear until the parasites reach considerable size, when they partially block up the intestinal tube and probably cause considerable irritation. The affected lamb ceases to thrive, becomes weak and emaciated and may finally die from exhaustion. In late stages diarrhoea is a prominent symptom. The mucus membranes are pale, the wool becomes deprived of oil and is easily pulled out, and the appetite at first good, in later stages becomes impaired. Other diseases may supervene and carry off the already debilitated animal. The appetite of affected animals may for some time continue good, more food and drink being taken than when free from parasites. To prevent infection with tape worms new pastures and fresh drinking water should if possible be supplied. Overstocking and the use of low wet pastures should be avoided. Medicinal treatment is quite effective if the flock is taken in hand early. For the destruction of this parasite several preparations are recommended. Before administering medicine, food and water should be withheld for twelve hours or more, and it is advisable to follow the tape worm medicine in three or four hours with a full dose of castor oil. Arca, not powdered, in one to three drachm doses, male shield fern in two ounce doses, kouso in one and one-half to two drachm doses, and picrate of potash in from 6 to 20 grain doses are the preparations most highly recommended. The picrate of potash is said to be very effective, but if properly administered, no doubt any of the above will give good results. Oil of turpentine is also much used. After using this remedy for the destruction of the stomach worms sheep have been observed to pass large numbers of tape worms. In the treatment of badly affected flocks the animals should receive the best of care, and in addition to being supplied with generous diet, composed of such foods as crushed oats, bran and oil cake, it is well to give a tonic medicine in the feed. For the latter purpose it will be found beneficial to mix for each sheep a teaspoonful of a mixture of equal parts of dried sulphate of iron and ground ginger root in the feed twice daily until they begin to pick up, after which it may be given once daily for some time longer. Keep a good look out for segments of tape worms about this time of the year, and if they are noticed at once commence treatment as suggested above.

Character of Dairy Product from Silage.

Professor Henry of the Wisconsin Experiment Station writes to Hoard's Dairyman of the increased use of silage for making milk. He says: "The prejudice against silage-made milk has not yet entirely died out, though it is rapidly passing. The edict which went forth from one of the milk condensers about a score of

years ago that no milk from silage-fed cows would be received under any circumstances, was taken up by other condensing factories as they sprang into existence. Doubtless the proprietors regarded this as the easiest way of settling what otherwise might make trouble. This unreasonable ruling has done much to prejudice our people against silage for the dairyman. An interesting incident—almost an accident, we might say, occurred some time since, which has proved conclusively the injustice and folly of such a sweeping condemnation of an excellent feeding stuff. A condensing company in Michigan owns factories in Lansing and Howell. The Lansing factory, first built, was not receiving sufficient milk from the farmers for full operation and was therefore eager to secure a larger supply. The milk from a certain farm was found to be large in amount and satisfactory in quality. This farmer's milk had been repeatedly praised by those whose duty it was to watch quantity and quality. Nothing had ever been said about silage-produced milk, for the subject had never been considered, the officers thought, in that community. To the surprise and doubtless the consternation of the officials it was one day learned that the milk from the farmer which has been so much praised for abundance and quality, was from silage-fed cows. Here was a crisis! Should this farmer be turned down? If his milk was accepted, what should be said about other farmers adopting his practice of feeding silage? Choosing the sensible course, the factory accepted the situation, and the outcome was a pamphlet of nearly a hundred pages, treating of the construction of silos, the growing of silage crops, filling the silo and feeding the silage. These pamphlets were placed in the hands of each and every patron of this condensing company. A letter received from an authoritative source a couple of years since stated that about one-third of the milk received at the Lansing condenser was then being produced by silage-fed cows.

During a visit to the East some time since the writer found silage used as the main roughage on many of the best dairy farms. Milk that brought from 8 to 12 cents a quart under special brands in New York, Boston and other cities, was from silage sources. On many Eastern dairy farms the business would have to be abandoned were it not for the silo. Where timothy hay sells from \$15 to \$20 per ton, what could the milk producer do without the silage?

Substitutes for Eggs.

An egg substitute has been manufactured from skim milk. It is said to contain the casein and albumen of the milk mixed with a little flour, and is put up in the form of a paste or powder. Such material is evidently rich in protein, and, according to reports apparently reliable, is used in considerable quantities by bakers and confectioners in place of fresh eggs.

Egg substitutes have been devised which consist of mixtures of animal or vegetable fats, albumen, starch or flour, coloring matter, and some leavening powder in addition to the mineral matters similar to those found in the egg. Such products are designed to resemble eggs in composition.

Other egg substitutes have been marketed which contain little or no albumen, but apparently consist quite largely of starch, colored more or less with some yellow substance. These goods are specially recommended for making custards and puddings similar in appearance to those in which fresh eggs are used. There is no reason to suppose that such products cannot be made so that they will be perfectly wholesome. The fact must not be overlooked that in the diet they cannot replace fresh eggs, since they do not contain much nitrogenous matter or fat. As recently pointed out in one of the medical journals, this may be an important matter if such an egg substitute is used in the diet of invalids, especially if the composition of the egg substitute is not known, and it is employed with the belief that, like eggs, it contains an abundance of protein.

American Oxford Down Breeders.

The annual meeting of the American Oxford Down Record Association will be held in the Agricultural Building (kindness of Mr. Converse, superintendent), Pan-American Exposition, Buffalo, N. Y., Tuesday, Sept. 24, 1901, at 7:30 p. m.

Last Month.

Last month, on the news of our corn crop troubles, England imported from producing countries 42 per cent more of that cereal than in the same month of 1900.

The True Heavenly Mind.

The true heavenly mind will be earthly kind.

Practical Pigeon Notes.

Don't allow draughts in your loft, as pigeons are very susceptible to cold. Be sure to furnish your birds a shallow tub to bathe in, and they will not trouble your water bucket. Don't feed new grain to your pigeons, as in many cases evil results have been known to follow this practice.

A handful of hemp several times a week will be relished by the birds, and is also beneficial to their welfare. Try tobacco stems for nesting. They are grand for keeping down vermin. Don't breed both lice and pigeons.

City fanciers are troubled by the plumage of their pigeons becoming soiled with tar. Sweet oil will remove it. New beginners in pigeon culture constantly inquire which is the best grit for pigeons. Our experience teaches us that no better grit can be provided than old mortar.

In arranging your aviary see that the perches are arranged low. If the birds have no high perches to fly to when you enter the loft they very rapidly get accustomed to your appearance among them, and therefore become tamer.

Young fanciers are sometimes at a loss to know where to buy, and procure their birds at bird stores. Our advice is to write a reputable dealer and send him your order. They may cost you a little more, but when purchasing always buy the best, as they are the cheapest in the end.—Orff's Farm and Poultry Review.

Dried Eggs.

A report of the Department of Agriculture says: "Different methods of evaporating or desiccating eggs have been proposed, and several products which claim to be prepared in this way are now on the market. It is said that the egg is dried in or out of a vacuum, usually by a gentle heat or by currents of air. When placed on the market the dried egg is usually ground. Sometimes salt, sugar, or both, have been used as preservatives. Such material is merely egg from which the bulk of the water has been removed. If the process of manufacture is such that the resulting product is palatable and keeps well, the value of evaporated eggs under many circumstances is evident.

This material is used by bakers to some extent, as being cheaper when fresh eggs are high in price. It is also used in provisioning camps and expeditions, since desiccated foods have the advantage of a higher nutritive value in proportion to their bulk than the same materials when fresh. Fresh eggs contain about 25 per cent of dry matter. If all the water is removed in preparing evaporated eggs, one pound will furnish nutritive material equivalent to about four pounds of fresh eggs. One of the commercial products, recently tested appeared to be dried egg coarsely ground. For use it was thoroughly mixed with a small quantity of water. The mixture could then be fried or made into an omelet, etc., and was found to be very palatable, closely resembling in taste the same dishes made from fresh eggs.

An Excellent Stable Whitewash.

The cow stable should frequently receive a coat of whitewash. The way in which the whitewash is made controls to a very large extent its durability. A whitewash is desired that will not easily and quickly wash away. The United States government has the same problem to face in the whitewashing of its lighthouses. These structures are exposed not only to the rains of heaven but also to the spray of the sea. Experience has evolved the following formula:

Slack about half a bushel unslacked lime with boiling water, keeping covered during process. Strain it, and add one peck of salt dissolved in warm water, three pounds ground rice put in boiling water and boiled to a thin paste, half pound powdered Spanish whiting and one pound clear glue dissolved in warm water. Mix these well together and let mixture stand for several days. Keep the wash thus prepared in a kettle or portable furnace, and when used put it on as hot as possible. This will answer for either wood, brick or stone, and retain its lustre for a long time. It is a formula recommended by the U. S. Treasury Department to all light-housekeepers. It can be colored, if desired, to any shade. A little lampblack makes a slate color; lampblack and Spanish brown, a red stone color; yellow ochre or chrome yellow, a pretty cream shade.

Thomas W. Lawson.

Thomas W. Lawson, the Boston multi-millionaire, has bought two islands and has the option on twelve others in Isle-au-Haut Bay, near Stonington, Me., about fifteen miles from the mainland. The islands are all close together and many of them can be connected by bridges. On the largest Mr. Lawson will erect a magnificent residence for himself. A landscape artist will have charge of the matter and will transform the islands into a Venice in America. The whole cost of the project will be above \$1,000,000.

The True Heavenly Mind.

The true heavenly mind will be earthly kind.