

TALMAGE'S SERMON.

He Preaches to an Immense Throng in the Silver State.

The Beautiful Story of Ruth is the Subject of the Discourse—the Lessons It Contains Pointed Out and Illustrated.

It was in Denver, Col., that Dr. Talmage preached last Sunday, or rather at a campmeeting, near there, at a place called Greenwood Springs. The sermon was listened to attentively by an immense audience. His text is taken from Ruth ii, 3: "And she went and gleaned in the field after the reapers; and her hap was to light on a part of the field belonging unto Boaz who was of the kindred of Elimelech."

Within a few weeks I have been in North Carolina, Virginia, Pennsylvania, New York, Ohio, Michigan, Canada, Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, Missouri, and they are one great harvest field, and no field can be more enchanting in any country than the season of harvest.

The time that Ruth and Naomi arrived at Bethlehem is, harvest time. It was the custom when a sheaf fell from a load in the harvest field for the reapers to refuse to gather it up; that was to be left for the poor who might happen to come that way. If there were handfuls of grain scattered across the field after the main harvest had been reaped, instead of raking it, as farmers do now, it was, by the custom of the land, left in its place, so that the poor, coming along that way, might glean it and get their bread.

But, you say, "What is the use of all these harvest fields to Ruth and Naomi? Naomi is too old and feeble to go out and toil in the sun; and can you expect that Ruth, the young and the beautiful should tan her cheeks and blister her hands in the harvest field?" Boaz owns a large farm and he goes out to see the reapers gather in the grain. Coming there, right behind the swarthy, sun-browned reapers, he beholds a beautiful woman gleaning—a woman more fit to bend to a harp or sit upon a throne than to stoop among the sheaves. Ah, that was an eventful day! It was love at first sight. Boaz forms an attachment for the womanly gleaner—an attachment full of undying interest to the church of God in all ages; while Ruth, with an ephah, or nearly a bushel of barley, goes home to Naomi to tell her the successes and adventures of the day. That Ruth, who left her native land of Moab in darkness, and journeyed through an undying affection for her mother-in-law, is in the harvest field of Boaz, is affianced to one of the best families in Judah, and becomes in after time the ancestress of Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory! Out of so dark a night did there ever dawn so bright a morning?

I learn, in the first place, from this subject how trouble develops character. It was bereavement, poverty and exile that developed, illustrated and announced to all ages the sublimity of Ruth's character. That is a very unfortunate man who has no trouble. It was sorrow that made John Bunyan the better dreamer, and Dr. Young the better poet, and O'Connell the better orator, and Bishop Hall the better preacher, and Havelock the better soldier, and Kitto the better encyclopedist, and Ruth the better daughter-in-law.

I once asked an aged man in regard to his pastor, who was a very brilliant man: "Why is it that your pastor, so very brilliant, seems to have so little tenderness in his sermons?" "Well," he replied, "the reason is, our pastor has never had any trouble. When misfortune comes upon him, his style will be different." After a while the Lord took a child out of that pastor's house, and though the preacher was just as brilliant as he was before, O, the warmth, the tenderness of his discourses! The fact is that trouble is a great educator. You see sometimes a musician sit down at an instrument, and his execution is cold and formal and unfeeling. The reason is that all his life has been prosperous. But let misfortune or bereavement come to that man, and he sits down at the instrument, and you discover the pathos in the first sweep of the keys. Misfortune and trials are great educators. A young doctor comes into a sick room where there is a dying child. Perhaps he is very rough in his manner, and very rough in the feeling of the pulse, and rough in his answer to the mother's anxious question; but the years roll on, and there has been one dead in his own house; now he comes into the sick room, and with tearful eye he looks at the dying child, and he says, "O, how this reminds me of my Charlie!" Trouble, the great educator! Sorrow—I see its touch in the greatest painting; I hear its tremor in the sweetest song; I feel its power in the mightiest argument. Grecian mythology said that the fountain of Hippocrene was struck out by the foot of the winged horse, Pegasus. I have often noticed in life that the brightest and most beautiful fountains of Christian comfort and spiritual life have been struck out by the hoof of disaster and calamity.

I see Daniel's courage best by the flash of Nebuchadnezzar's furnace. I see Paul's prowess best when I find him on the foundering ship under the glare of the lightning in the breakers of Melita. God crowns His children amid the howling of wild beasts and the chopping of blood splashed gullotine and the crackling fires of martyrdom. It took the persecutions of Marcus Aurelius to develop Polycarp and Justin Martyr. It took the pope's bull and the cardinal's curse and the world's anathema to develop Martin Luther. It took all the hostilities against the Scotch Covenanters and the fury of Lord Claverhouse to develop James Ren-

wick and Andrew Melville and Hugh McKail, the glorious martyrs of Scotch history. It took the stormy sea and the December blast and the desolate New England coast and the war ships of savages to show forth the prowess of the Pilgrim fathers—

When amid the storm they sang,
And the stars heard, and the sea;
And the sun, in aisles of the dim wood
Rang to the anthems of the free.

It took all our past national distresses, and it takes all our present national sorrows to lift up our nation on that high career where it will march along after the foreign despots that have mocked, and the tyrannies that have jeered shall be swept down under the omnipotent wrath of God, Who hates oppression, and Who, by the strength of His own red right arm, will make all men free. And so it is individually, and in the family, and in the church, and in the world that through darkness and storm and trouble men, women, churches, nations are destroyed.

Again I see in my text the beauty of unflinching friendship. I suppose there were plenty of friends for Naomi while she was in prosperity, but of all her acquaintances how many were willing to trudge off with her to Judea when she had to make that lonely journey? One—the heroine of my text. One—absolutely one. I suppose when Naomi's husband was living and they had plenty of money and all things went well they had a great many callers, but I suppose after her husband died and her property went and she got old and poor she was not troubled much with callers. All the birds that sang in the bower while the sun shone have gone to their nests, now the night has fallen.

In this world, so full of heartlessness and hypocrisy, how thrilling it is to find some friend as faithful in days of adversity as in days of prosperity! David had such a friend in Hushai; the Jews had such a friend in Mordecai, who never forgot their cause; Paul had such a friend in Onesiphorus, who visited him in jail; Christ had such in the Marys, who adhered to him on the cross; Naomi had such a one in Ruth, who cried out: "Entreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee, for whither thou goest I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge; thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God; where thou diest will I die, and there will I be buried; the Lord do so to me, and more also, if I ought out death part thee and me."

Again, I learn from this subject that paths which open in hardship and darkness often come out in places of joy. When Ruth started from Moab toward Jerusalem, to go along with her mother-in-law, I suppose the people said: "Oh, what a foolish creature to go away from her father's house to go off with a poor old woman toward the land of Judah! They won't live to get across the desert. They will be drowned in the sea, or the jackals of the wilderness will destroy them." It was a very dark morning when Ruth started off with Naomi; but behold her in my text in the harvest field of Boaz, to be affianced to one of the lords of the land, and become one of the grandmothers of Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. And so it often is that a path which starts very darkly ends very brightly. When you started out for heaven, O, how dark was the hour of conviction—how Sinai thundered, and thunders tormented, and the darkness thickened! All the sins of your life pounced upon you, and it was the darkest hour you ever saw when you first found out your sins.

After awhile you went into the harvest field of God's mercy; you began to glean in the fields of divine promise, and you had more sheaves than you could carry, as the voice of God addressed you saying: "Blessed is the man whose transgressions are forgiven and whose sins are covered." A very dark starting in conviction, a very bright ending in the pardon and the hope and the triumph of the Gospel! It was very hard for Noah to endure the scoffing of the people in his day, while he was trying to build the ark and was every morning quizzed about his old boat that would never be of any practical use, but when the deluge came, and the top of the mountains disappeared like the backs of sea monsters, and the elements, lashed up in fury, clapped their hands over a drowned world, then Noah in the ark rejoiced in his own safety and in the safety of his family and looked out on the wreck of a ruined earth.

Christ, hounded of persecutors, denied a pillow, worse maltreated than the thieves on either side of the cross, human hate smacking its lips in satisfaction after it had been draining His last drop of blood, the sheeted dead bursting from the sepulchers at His crucifixion; Tell me, O, Getsemane and Golgotha, were there ever darker times than those? Like the booming of the midnight sea against the rock, the surges of Christ's anguish beat against the gates of eternity, to be echoed back by all the thrones of heaven and all the dungeons of hell. But the day of reward comes for Christ; all the pomp and dominion of this world are to be hung on His throne, uncrowned heads are to bow before him on whose head are many crowns and all the celestial worship is to come up at His feet like the humming of the forest, like the rushing of the waters, like the thundering of the seas, while all heaven, rising on their thrones, beat time with their scepters: "Hallelujah, for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth! Hallelujah, the kingdoms of this world are the kingdoms of our Lord Jesus Christ."

That song of love, now low and far,
Eye long shall swell from star to star;
That light, the breaking day which tips
The golden spired Apocalypse.

Again, I learn from my subject that events which seem to be most insignificant may be momentous. Can you imagine anything more unimportant than the coming of a poor woman from Moab to Judea? Can you imagine anything more trivial than the fact that this Ruth just happened to alight on that field of Boaz? Yet all ages, all

generations, have an interest in the fact that she was to become an ancestress of the Lord Jesus Christ, and all nations and kingdoms must look at that one little incident with a thrill of unparelleled and eternal satisfaction.

Again, I see in my subject an illustration of the beauty of female industry. Behold Ruth toiling in the harvest field under the hot sun, or at noon taking plain bread with the reapers, or eating the parched corn which Boaz handed to her. The customs of society, of course, have changed, and without the hardships and exposure to which Ruth was subjected, every intelligent woman will find something to do. I know there is a sickly sentimentality on this subject. In some families there are persons of no practical service to the household or community; and though there are so many woes all around about them in the world, they spend their time languishing over a new pattern, or bursting into tears at midnight over the story of some lover who shot himself! They would not begin to look at Ruth carrying back the barley on her way home to her mother-in-law, Naomi.

All this fastidiousness may seem to do very well while they are under the shelter of their father's house; but when the sharp winter of misfortune comes, what of these butterflies? Persons under indulgent parentage may get up on themselves habits of indolence; but when they come out into practical life their soul will recoil with disgust and chagrin. They will feel in their hearts what the poet so severely satirized when he said:

Folks are so awkward, things so impolite,
They're elegantly pained from morn till night.

Through that gate of indolence how many men and women have marched useless on earth to a destroyed eternity! Spinola said to Sir Horace Vere: "Of what did your brother die?" "Of having nothing to do," was the answer. "Ah!" said Spinola, "that's enough to kill any general of us." O! can it be possible in this world, where there is so much suffering to be alleviated, so much darkness to be enlightened and so many burdens to be carried that there is any person who cannot find anything to do?

Once more I learn from my subject the value of gleaning. Ruth going into that harvest field might have said: "There is a straw, and there is a straw, but what is a straw? I can't get any barley for myself or my mother-in-law out of these separate straws." Not so, said beautiful Ruth. She gathered two straws and she put them together, and more straws, until she got enough to make a sheaf. Putting that down, she went and gathered more straws, until she made another sheaf, and another, and another, and then she brought them all together, and she threshed them out and she had an ephah of barley, nigh a bushel. O, that we might all be gleaners!

Elihu Burrill learned many things while toiling in a blacksmith's shop. Abercrombie, the world renowned philosopher, was a physician in Scotland and he got his philosophy or the chief part of it, while, as a physician he was waiting for the door of the sick room to open. Yet how many there are in this day who say they are so busy they have no time for mental or spiritual improvement. The great duties of life cross the field like strong reapers and carry off all the hours and there is only here and there a fragment left that is not worth gleaning. Ah, my friends, you could go into the busiest day and busiest week of your life and find golden opportunities, which, gathered, might at last make a whole sheaf for the Lord's garner. It is the stray opportunities and the stray privileges which, taken and bound together and beaten or vid at last fill you with much joy.

There are a few moments left worth the gleaning. Now Ruth, to the field! May each one have a measure full and running over! O, you gleaners, to the field! And if there be in your house hold an aged one or a sick relative that is not strong enough to come forth and toil in the field, then let Ruth take home to feeble Naomi this sheaf of gleaning: "He that goeth forth and reapeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him." May the Lord God of Ruth and Naomi be our portion forever!

Women as Treasury Experts.

In many branches of the treasury service women have risen to the proficiency of treasury experts. This is especially true as to the office of the treasurer of the United States, where the most expert, rapid and accurate counters of mutilated currency and detectors of counterfeit money are women. A woman detected the first counterfeit \$100 bill of a very dangerous issue.

When called upon to explain why she thought it was counterfeit, her answer was, "I knew it was." It took a day or two for the engravers and cashiers to make a detailed explanation so that bank officials could understand the reason. However, it was discovered that these same cashiers and bank officials had received a good many of the bills, while the woman had detected that they were counterfeit. General Spinner, when treasurer of the United States, once said: "A man will examine a note systematically, and adduce logically from the imperfect engraving, blurred vignette or indistinct signature that it is counterfeit, and he will be wrong four cases out of ten. A woman picks up a note, looks at it in an apparently careless manner, after her own fashion, and says, 'That is counterfeit.' 'Why?' the division chief will ask, and she will be very sure to answer, 'because it is,' and she is right eleven cases out of twelve."

The girls to the north seem to be hustlers and are not made effeminate by culture. An educated, accomplished young lady at Petoskey, Mich., has split twenty cords of wood with her own hands and then piled it neatly by season for summer use.

GENERAL NEWS.

The Happenings of a Week

DOMESTIC.

John D. Kilpatrick, the millionaire railroad contractor and builder of the Central Pacific, died at his home in Beatrice, Neb.

Ameer Ben Ali, the New York "Jack the Ripper," arrived at Auburn prison with fifty transferred Sing Sing prisoners. He gave his name as George Franks.

The fourth installment of treaty funds arising from the sale of the Sac and Fox surplus lands has been distributed among the Indians. But \$50,000 yet remains to be paid them.

Eastern and western freight trains on the Pennsylvania line collided near Salem, O., demolishing both engines and eleven cars. Engineer Jonas Baer, Fireman W. Baer and Conductor Bradshaw were seriously hurt.

In consequence of the presence of the United States cutter Levi Woodbury on the Canada fishing grounds Maine fishermen are said to be openly catching fish within the Canadian lines.

Newspaper offices in Brazil indicate that an enthusiastic welcome is being extended to the world's fair commissioners. It is proposed by the people of the city of St. Joao del Rei to construct a cascade of crystals as part of the Brazilian exhibit.

At Columbus, Ohio, W. J. Elliott was found guilty of murder in the second degree for the killing of Albert G. Osborn and W. Hughes.

J. W. Miller, editor and proprietor of the Putnam Democrat of Winfield, W. Va., eloped with Miss Nora Boyer of Winfield. The girl's parents are wealthy and had kept her locked in her room in the second story of the house, from which she escaped.

White caps visited the home of Mary Green, near Grissom, N. C., carried her to the woods and whipped her nearly to death. Returning to the house they served Henry Merritt, a visitor, in the same manner.

The union veteran republicans of Hamilton county, O., held their convention at Cincinnati and nominated three senators, ten representatives and a full county ticket.

The congress of Columbia has appropriated \$80,000 in gold to defray the expenses of an exhibit at the world's fair. Commissioners have been appointed.

Constant rains have caused a reappearance of the cotton worm in Alabama, and the entire crop is in danger.

Ramon Wriat and Andros Amya have sailed from San Salvador to Europe to negotiate a loan of 8 million dollars.

White caps took Henry Smith, a resident of Scottsville, Ala., to the outskirts of town, tied him and then shot him to death. No cause is known for the outrage.

Among recently appointed naval cadets are H. W. Hand of Kansas and T. A. Kearney, Alfred F. Morgan and J. P. Morton of Missouri. They are ordered to report at Annapolis for examination in September. H. L. Cox of Missouri is an alternate.

The petition has been granted asking the appointment of a receiver for the American Sugar Refining Company.

Agents of the companies controlling the anthracite coal markets met at New York and decided to maintain the present prices.

A refusal of a "treer" to instruct a boy in the boot and shoe factory of John E. Drake, at Quincy, Mass., resulted in the closing of the establishment and the throwing out of employment of 2,000 hands.

James Gordon Bennett has been indicted for publishing an account of the Sing Sing executions by electricity.

Census returns indicate that 2,491,930 farms and homes in the United States occupied by owners, are encumbered by mortgages. Preliminary returns from Iowa indicate that the average debt for a farm in that state is \$1,283 and for a home \$719, making the average of both \$1,140. At this rate the total encumbrance on farms and homes in the United States would amount to 2,500 million dollars. Judging from the incomplete returns from western states, farms and homes are mortgaged for about one-third of their value.

Brazilian advices announce the appointment of a commission of eight members to take charge of the Brazilian representation at the Columbian exposition. Among the members is Prof. Orville Derby, who accompanied Agassiz in his geological surveys in Brazil, and who for many years has been in charge of the geological and mineralogical sections of the national museum at Rio.

A miner named Wilkins, living near Pittsburg, Pa., insulted Mrs. Joseph Wilson. She resented this and he beat her into insensibility with a ball bat. Believing that he had killed her, Wilkins cut his throat with a pocket knife. Both will probably die.

Frederick C. Havemeyer, founder of the Havemeyer sugar firm, is dead.

Editor William J. Elliott of Columbus, O., who killed two men on the streets February 23d last, was convicted of murder in the second degree by the jury, after five days' deliberation.

William N. Weedon, who developed the Waterbury watch, died at New Bedford, Mass.

The house where Jesse James died will be exhibited at the world's fair at Chicago.

Governor Hovey says the federal government owes Indiana \$1,000,000 for war tax, interest and national road claims.

An exploded boiler at Vioksburg, Miss., rose to a great height in the air, falling through the roof of a house and alighting on a breakfast table.

There is a movement on foot to reduce the capital stock of the lead trust from \$57,000,000 to \$30,000,000.

Proceedings to test the constitutionality of the secrecy clause of the New York election law were begun.

At Aiken, S. C., the corpse of a boy supposed to have been killed by his father, was found by some children.

The charred bodies of August Young, aged 5, and Frank Weazel, aged 4, were found in the ruins of city councilman George Mercherle's stable, which burned at Dayton, Ohio.

The Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Wellington White, their three children, Mattie Hastings, the daughter of a neighbor, and a nurse girl went out for a drive, at Nyack, N. Y. On an Erie railroad crossing stood a freight train cut in halves to allow vehicles to pass. Mr. White drove between the halves in time to be struck by an Erie passenger train on another track. Mr. White, two of his daughters and the nurse girl were instantly killed. The skulls of Mrs. White and the child were fractured and they are not expected to live.

George W. Poor, a deputy sheriff, J. E. Terry, an ex-police officer of Seattle, and Customs Inspectors J. C. Baird and James Buchanan had for several days been on the track of a band of Mongolians who were being smuggled into the United States from British America. The first two men were together and a rivalry existed between the two pairs. Poor and Terry captured the Mongolians, and Baird and Buchanan opened fire, killing Poor and seriously wounding Terry.

Colonel Fred Brackett, chief clerk of the treasury department, has resigned, his resignation to take effect September 1. He has been appointed a special agent of the treasury department to establish a bureau of world's fair information in London for the benefit of intending exhibitors.

W. E. Denny, Eugene Kelly and Phil Hickey were arrested at Butte, Mont., for the murder of Editor W. J. Penrose on the night of July 9. The men are all members of the miner's union and had been assailed by Editor Penrose in his paper.

Rainmaker Melbourne is feeling exultant. Out of eight experiments only one has been a failure, and that is set down to a broken machine.

Employees of a cork factory at Evora, Spain, set fire to the building lately. The men were thrown out of work because of dull times caused by the McKinley bill.

Mrs. Lydia Bacon, a court stenographer in Cincinnati, has been appointed master and referee in the case of George I. King and others against the Mutual Fire Insurance company. Mrs. Bacon is the first woman in the history of the superior court to hold such a position.

"Prof." Campbell was to fly at Fort Wayne, Indiana. Instead, he vanished taking \$750 in cash.

The visible supply of grain Saturday showed: Wheat, 14,100,447 bushels; an increase of 1,628,183. Corn, 3,035,876, a decrease of 329,326 bushels.

Near Platteville, Wis., the powder mill of Laffin & Rand exploded. The mutilated remains of a workman named Lowry were picked up 400 yards from the mill.

A mail bag containing warrants issued by Auditor Pavey to various state's attorneys was stolen at Tolono, Ill., July 2. The bag has since been found and the papers have been returned.

Hon. M. S. Quay, president, and Hon. W. W. Dudley, treasurer of the national republican committee, tendered their resignations as officers and members of the committee. The resignations were accepted, and Hon. J. S. Clarkson was appointed to fill Senator Quay's place.

Heavy rains are doing much damage in Arkansas.

It is learned that the so-called wild man of Hartman, Ark., is only a practical joker.

Ex-Treasurer Noland of Missouri, has taken an appeal, and the costs have been taxed to the state.

While the clerks in a Sag Harbor, (L. I.) bank were looking out the windows a thief stole \$3,000.

A vote in the Canadian house of commons on an amendment endorsing "the most extended reciprocal trade," stood yeas 88, nays 114.

While Sam Jones was addressing an audience at Houston, Tex., the lights were suddenly extinguished, and the speaker and many of his audience pelted with eggs.

Ralph Lidster, one of the original Wisconsin pearl fishers, says that the industry is dead. No finds of good pearls have been reported since the first excitement ended.

Foreign.

Fifty dead have been accounted for at St. Mandé, the scene of the French railway accident.

The Grenadier Guards are back in England from Bermuda, where they were exiled for mutiny about a year ago.

The notorious swindler who for years has been duping Americans through letters from Spain, representing himself as a priest with knowledge of buried treasure, has been arrested in Spain.

The world's fair foreign committee gave a luncheon to the British commissioner and other distinguished persons at which promises encouraging to the fair were made by several Englishmen.

The Czar sent a friendly message to President Carnot in connection with the visit of the French squadron to Russia.

Captain Saunders of the steamer Charles W. Wetmore died in Liverpool from heart disease, resulting from excitement produced by his jumping overboard and saving a man from drowning.

"Economy" is Italy's watchword. The Vatican as well as the government is reducing expenses.

Forty-three dead and 104 injured is the official statement of the casualties at the St. Mandé railroad collision. The cause is not definitely known yet.

Berland and Dore were guillotined in the Place de la Roquette, Paris, before thousands of curious, cursing spectators, who kept the police and soldiers busy preserving order. Berland made a scene on the scaffold.

In speaking of the recent social scandals in England the president of the Wesleyan conference condemned the doctrine that while cheating was wrong gambling was right. He said thousands of Christians would be heard from at the polls.