

## USEFUL SUFFERING.

Jesus Christ's Lacerations Were Necessary.

Blood and Tears Paid For Our Redemption—Applause and Acclamation Did Not Actuate Him to Die a Martyr—Talmage's Sermon.

Dr. Talmage's European preaching tour is drawing to a close. The subject chosen for last Sunday's sermon was "Useful Suffering," the text taken being Luke xxiv., 46: "It behooved Christ to suffer."

There have been scholars who have ventured the assertion that the pains of our Lord were unnecessary. Indeed, it was a shocking waste of tears and blood and agony, unless some great end were to be reached. If men can prove that no good result come of it then the character of God is impeached, and the universe must stand abhorrent and denunciatory at the fact that the Father allowed the butchery of His only begotten Son. We all admire the brave six hundred men described by Tennyson as dashing into the conflict when they knew they must die, and knew at the same time that "some one had blundered," but we are abhorrent of the man who made the blunder and who caused the sacrifice of those brave men for no use. But I shall show you, if the Lord will help me, this morning, that for good reasons Christ went through the torture. In other words, "it behooved Christ to suffer."

1. In the first place I remark that Christ's lacerations were necessary, because man's rescue was an impossibility except by the payment of some great sacrifice. Outraged law had thundered against iniquity. Man must die unless a substitute can intercept that death. Let Gabriel step forth. He refuses. Let Michael the Archangel step forth. He refuses. No Roman citizen, no Athenian, no Corinthian, no reformer, no angel volunteered.

Christ then bared His heart to the pang. He paid for our redemption in tears and blood, and wounded feet, and scoured shoulders, and torn brow. "It is done." Heaven and earth heard the snap of the prison bar. Sins ceased to quake with wrath the moment that Calvary began to rock in crucifixion. Christ had suffered. "Oh," says some man, "I don't like that doctrine of substitution; let every man bear his own burdens and weep his own tears, and fight his own battles." Why, my brother, there is vicarious sufferings all over the world. Did not our parents suffer for you? Do you not suffer sometimes for your children? Does not the patriot suffer for his country? Did not Grace Darling suffer for the drowning sailors? Vicarious suffering on all sides! But how insignificant compared with his scene of vicarious suffering!

Wast it for crimes that I have done  
He groaned upon the tree?  
Amazing pity, grace unknown,  
And love beyond degree.

Christ must suffer to pay the price of our redemption.

But I remark again: The sufferings of Christ were necessary in order that the world's sympathies might be aroused. Men are won to the right and good through their sympathies. The world must feel aright before it can act aright. So the cross was allowed to be lifted that the world's sympathies might be aroused. Men who have been obdurate by the cruelties they have enacted, by the massacres they have inflicted, by the horrors of which they have been guilty, have become little children in the presence of this dying Saviour. What the sword could not do, what juggernauts could not subdue, the wounded hand of Christ has accomplished. There are this moment millions of people held under the spell of that one sacrifice. The hammers that struck the spikes into the cross have broken the rocky heart of the world. Nothing but the agonies of a Saviour's death-throe could arouse the world's sympathies.

I remark again: "It behooved Christ to suffer," that the strength and persistence of the divine love might be demonstrated. Was it the applause of the world that induced Christ on that crusade from Heaven? Could the conquest of this insignificant planet have paid Him for His career of pain, if it had been a mere matter of applause? All the honors of Heaven surging at His feet. Would your queen give up her throne that she might rule a miserable tribe in Africa? Would the Lord Jesus Christ, on the throne of the universe, come down to our planet if it were a mere matter of applause and acclamation? Nor was it an expedition undertaken for the accumulation of vast wealth. What could all the harvests and the diamonds of our little world do for him whose are the glories of infinitude and eternity? Nor was it an experiment—an attempt to show what he could do with the hard-hearted race. He who wheels the stars in their course and holds the pillars of the universe on the tips of his fingers needed to make no experiment to find what he could do. Oh! I will tell you, my friends, what it was. It was undisciplined, unlimited, all-conquering, all-consuming, infinite, eternal, omnipotent love that opened the gate, that started the star in the east, with finger of light pointing down to the manger; that arrayed the Christmas choir above Bethlehem; that opened the stable door where Christ was born; that lifted him on the cross. Love thirsty at the well. Love at the sick man's couch. Love at the cripple's crutch. Love sweating in the garden. Love dying on the cross.

Love wrapped in the grave. You can not mistake it. The blindest eye must see it. The hardest heart must feel it. The deafest ear must hear it. Parable and miracle, wayside talk and seaside interview, all the scenes of his life, all the sufferings of his death, proving beyond controversy that for our ingrate earth God has yearned with stupendous and inextinguishable love.

But I remark again: "It behooved Christ to suffer" that the nature of human guilt might be demonstrated. There is not a common-sense man in the house to-day that will not admit that the machinery of society is out of gear, that the human mind and the human heart are disorganized, that something ought to be done and done right away for its repair and adjustment. But the height, and depth, and length, and breadth, and late, and recklessness, and infernal energy of the human heart for sin would not have been demonstrated if against the holy and innocent One of the Cross it had not been hurled in one bolt of fire. Christ was not the first man that had been put to death. There had been many before him put to death; but they had their whims, their follies, their sins, their inconsistencies. But when the mob outside of Jerusalem howled at the Son of God, it was hate against goodness, it was blasphemy against virtue, it was earth against Heaven. What was it in that innocent and loving face of Christ that excited the vituperation and the contumely and scorn of men? If He had bantered them to come on, if He had laughed them into derision, if He had denounced them as the vagabonds that they were, we could understand their ferocity; but it was against inoffensiveness that they brandished their spears, and shook their fists, and ground their teeth, and howled, and scoffed, and jeered, and mocked. What evil had He done? Whose eyesight had He put out? None; but He had given vision to the blind. Whose child had He slain? None; but He restored the dead damsel to her mother. What law had He broken? None; but He had inculcated obedience to government. What foul plot had He enacted against the happiness of the race? None; He had come to save a world. The only cruelty He ever enacted was to heal the sick. The only ostentation He ever displayed was to sit with publicans and sinners, and wash the disciples' feet.

The only selfishness He ever exhibited was to give His life for his enemies. And yet, all the wrath of the world surged against His holy heart. Hear the red-hot scorn of the world hissing in the pools of a Saviour's blood! And standing there to-day, let us see what an unreasonable, loathsome, hateful, blasting, damning thing is the iniquity of the human heart.

Unloosed, what will not sin do? It will scale any height, it will fathom the very depths of hell, it will revel in all lasciviousness. There is no blasphemy it will not utter, there is no cruelty on which it will not gorge itself. It will wallow in filth, it will breathe the air of charnel-houses of corruption and call them aroma; it will quaff the blood of immortal souls and call it nectar. When sin murdered Christ on the cross it showed what it would do with the Lord God Almighty if it could get at Him.

The prophet had declared—I think it was Jeremiah—had declared centuries before, the truth, but not until sin shot out its forked tongue at the crucifixion and tossed its sting into the soul of a martyred Jesus was it illustrated that "the heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked."

Again: "It behooved Christ to suffer," that our affections might be excited Christward. Why, sirs, the behavior of our Lord has stirred the affections of all those who have ever heard of it. It has hung the art galleries of the world with such pictures as Ghirlandajo's "Worship of the Magi," Giotto's "Baptism of Christ," Holman Hunt's "Christ in the Temple," Tintoret's "Agony in the Garden," Angelo's "Crucifixion," and it has called out Handel's "Messiah," and rung sweetest chimes in Young's "Night Thoughts," and filled the psalmody of the world with the penitential notes of sorrow and the hosannas of Christian triumph.

Show me any other king who has so many subjects. What is the most potent name to-day in the United States, in France, in England, in Scotland, in Ireland? Jesus. Other kings have had many subjects, but where is the king who has so many admiring subjects as Christ? Show me a regiment of 1,000 men in their army, and I will show you a battalion of 10,000 men in Christ's army.

Show me in history where one man has given his property and his life for any one else, and I will show you in history hundreds of thousands of men who have cheerfully died that Christ might reign. Aye, there are 100 men in this house who, if need were, would step out and die for Jesus. Their faith may now seem to be faint, and sometimes they may be inconsistent; but let the fires of martyrdom be kindled, throw them into the pit, cover them with poisonous serpents, pound them, flail them, crush them, and I will tell you what their last cry would be: "Come, Lord Jesus; come quickly!"

Oh, yes! the Lord Jesus has won the affections of many of us. There are some of us who can say this morning: "Lord Jesus, my light and my song; my hope for time, my expectation for eternity." Altogether lovely thou art. My soul is ravished with the vision. Thou art mine. Come, let me clasp thee.

Come life, come death, come scorn and pain, come whirlwind and darkness, Lord Jesus, I can not give thee up. I have heard thy voice. I have seen thy bleeding side. Lord Jesus, if I had some garlands plucked from heavenly garlands, I would wreath it for thy brow. If I had some gem worthy of the place, I would set it in thy crown. If I had a seraphic harp, I would strike it in thy praise. But I come lost and ruined and undone to throw myself at thy feet.

No price I bring;  
Simply to thy cross I cling.  
Thou knowest all things. Thou knowest that I love thee.

But I remark again: "It behooved Christ to suffer" that the world might learn how to suffer. Sometimes people suffer because they can not help themselves, but Christ had in His hands all the weapons to punish His enemies, and yet in quiescence He endured all outrage. He might have hurled the rocks of Golgotha upon his pursuers; He might have cleft the earth until it swallowed up his assailants; He might have called in re-enforcement, or taken any thunderbolt from the armory of God Omnipotent and hurled it seething and fiery among His foes; but He answered not again.

O my hearer! has there ever been in the history of the world such an example of enduring patience as we find in the cross? Some of you suffer physical distresses; some of you have life-long ailments, and they make you fretful. Sometimes you think that God has given you a cup too deep and too brimming. Sometimes you see the world laughing and romping on the highways of life, and you look out of the window while seated in an invalid's chair.

I want to show you this morning one who had worse pains in the head than you have ever had, whose back was scourged, who was wounded in the hands and wounded in the feet, and suffered all over; and I want that example to make you more enduring in your suffering, and to make you say, "Father, not my will, but thine be done." You never have had any bodily pain, and you will never have any bodily pain that equaled Christ's torture. "It behooved Christ to suffer," that He might show you how physically to suffer.

Some of you are persecuted. There are those who hate you. They criticize you. They would be glad to see you tumble and fall. They have done unaccountable meanness toward you. Sometimes you feel angry. You feel as if you would like to retort. Stop! Look at the closed lips, look at the still hand, look at the beautiful demeanor of your Lord. Struck, not striking back again. Oh, if you could only appreciate what He endured in the way of persecution. The words of Christ would be your words: "Father if it be possible let this cup pass from me, but if not, thy will be done." "It behooved Christ to suffer" persecution, that He might show you how to endure persecution.

Some of you are bereft. It is no random remark, because, there is hardly a family here that has not passed under the shadow. You have been bereft. Your house is a different place from what it used to be. The same furniture, the same books, the same pictures, but there has been a voice hushed there. The face that used to light up the whole dwelling has vanished. The pattering of the other feet does not break up the loneliness. The wave has gone over your soul, and you have sometimes thought what you would tell him when he comes back; but then the thought has flashed upon you, he will never come back!

Ah! my brother, my sister, Christ has sounded all that depth. Jesus of the bereft soul is here to-day. Behold Him! He knows what it is to weep at the tomb. It seems to me as if all the storms of the world's sorrow were compressed into one sob, and that sob were uttered in two words: "Jesus wept."

I close my sermon with a doxology: "Blessing and glory, and honor, and power be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the lamb forever. Amen, and Amen!"

### Fathers and Daughters.

If fathers would only realize how much the rounding out of both the character and education of their daughters depended on the relation they held to their fathers, the complaint of the narrowness of view and personal relations which women hold to affairs would disappear. Women who grow up entirely under a mother's influence naturally view life from the feminine standpoint, having minds more fitted to comprehend details than to grasp entire situations.

The very nature of a training entirely under feminine influence is to bound the mental vision by the horizon of home fences, domestic, social, church and inherited opinions. Of the vast world outside these walls a girl can only learn as she is brought in contact with it through the medium of an intelligent father or brother, unless circumstances force her to battle with the same outside world in the bread-and-butter struggle. More women make wrecks of their lives because of the mistaken training that prevented a knowledge of financial and economic conditions than from any other cause.—Domestic Monthly.

—A hearer, on leaving church on Sunday, where he could neither understand nor appreciate the performances of the choir, said the prophecy in Amos viii., 3, had just been fulfilled: "And the songs of the temple shall be howlings."

## THE FIFTY-SECOND CONGRESS.

Hampered by the Results of Republican Legislation.

The first session of the Fifty-second congress began amid republican predictions of disaster to the democratic party and ended with graceful recognition of the wish of a republican president.

Its work will be the subject of much controversy and necessarily an issue of no small importance in a national campaign which involves the election of a new house of representatives as well as that of a president and a vice president. For this reason judgment of its acts will be influenced more strongly than in intermediate years by partisan inclinations. It is obvious, however, that no better or fairer method of judging its performances from a political standpoint than by comparison with its republican predecessor can be devised. This is a test which democrats will welcome and to which republicans must submit.

The democrats of the house did their best to lighten the burdens of taxation on the people and industries of the country. Under the lead of the ways and means committee a bill was passed making wool free, in the hope of reviving the drooping woolen manufacturing interests and encouraging the wool-grower.

The same bill abolished the compensatory duty on woolen goods. The result of this would have been the cheapening of clothes which had been made much more costly by the McKinley law.

Another bill made free the binding-twine used by the wheat-growers and the cotton-ties used by the planters of the south.

Another made ore containing both silver and lead free, the purpose being to cheapen one of the most common articles of domestic and industrial use.

The bill to reduce the enormous McKinley tax on tin-plates would have put an end to a contemptible fraud, and would have saved the people of this country from \$10,000,000 to \$15,000,000 a year.

When these tax-relief bills reached the senate the republican majority promptly pigeon-holed them. In the interest of certain manufacturers of cheap plushes, shoddy and certain kinds of woolens, they denied the people cheap clothes.

In the interest of the cordage trust they refused cheap binding-twine to the wheat-growers.

In behalf of the hoop-iron makers of Pittsburgh they insisted upon dear cotton-ties for the southern planters.

To help the makers of plate they refused to put an end to the robbery of the people who buy dinner-palls, pots, pans and roofing-tin, and retained the tax that increases the price of canned goods and has already closed up a score of canning factories, depriving labor of its work as well as making food dearer.

In brief, all of the bills which the democratic house passed for the benefit of the people were killed by the senate.

The house dealt with the free-coinage measure honorably and manfully. The democratic majority, realizing that its first duty was to the people who elected it for the purpose of reducing taxes, defeated the effort to force it to the front. Besides attending to its legislative work the majority in the house exposed Raum's iniquitous administration of the pension office and showed the president to be his protector.

The material results of the session will not be of great advantage to the country for the simple reason that republican legislation of the billion dollar congress, a republican senate and a republican president have prevented the democratic house from carrying out the reforms desired by the people.

The political situation is unchanged by the session. It remains what it was in the campaign of 1890. The democrats have tried to reduce expenditures, but they could not. They have tried to drive the administration to reform the abuses in the pension bureau, but they have been met and overcome by the president's obstinate adherence to a scandalous administration. Above all, the democrats have tried to abolish some of the evils and to lighten some of the burdens of the McKinley tariff law. They have attacked some of its most flagrant abuses and some of the worst trusts it has engendered, but the friends of trusts and monopoly controlled the senate and sat in the white house, and the efforts of democratic tariff reformers were lost except as they show to the country that the party is still bent upon accomplishing the task which the people assigned to it in 1890.—N. Y. World.

## THE CAMPAIGN IN THE WEST.

A Poor Outlook for the Blocks-of-Five Manipulators.

Few republicans believe that Harrison will carry New York. Some of them talk of their ability to elect him without New York, but how are they going to do it? The talk of carrying West Virginia for him is moonshine, but even if it were not there is not a safe republican state between Ohio and Kansas. Many democrats believe that Ohio will go democratic this year. We believe, however, that it will not. We believe that Ohio, California, Oregon, Maine and Vermont are still safely republican in presidential years. Ordinarily Pennsylvania may be added to the list, but there is no means of telling anything about what Pennsylvania will do this year.

Here in the central west the republicans can count on nothing surely. Indi-

ana is now opposed to Harrison. There is little doubt that there is now in the state a plurality of at least 30,000 against him. The democratic chances of carrying Illinois and Wisconsin are better than the chances of the republicans. Iowa is at least as apt to give its electoral vote to Cleveland as it is to return to the republican party. The democrats will divide the vote of Michigan, and in Kansas and Nebraska Harrison is fighting both the democrats and the third party people of the farmers' alliances.

Where then do the custom house and post office republicans expect to get an electoral majority? The blocks-of-five system cannot be successfully used over such a territory as this when the people have been educated to such a knowledge of its workings as they gained from the Harrison campaign of 1888 in Indiana, and in the absence of such means of control Harrison is beaten three months before the polls open.—St. Louis Republic.

### NOTES AND OPINIONS.

—The democratic party is for a tariff for revenue only and against the doctrine that grand larceny can create vested rights which it would be unjust to challenge.—St. Louis Republic.

—The republican party stands committed to the force bill and acknowledges the indisputable wickedness of the proposed measure by trying to pooh-pooh it into insignificance as an issue.—Detroit Free Press.

—Platt, Quay and Clarkson should go abroad until after the November election. Nothing but this will reduce Bennie to the dimensions that will make it endurable to live on the same continent with him.—St. Louis Republic.

—The fifteen unprotected industries that have increased wages and the fifteen protected industries that have decreased them are witnesses whose evidence should convince any fair-minded jury of average intelligence.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

—The indignation of the republicans that the democrats should nominate for governor of Illinois a man who has plenty of money is highly interesting. Only republicans have the right to nominate a man with a bar!—Louisville Courier-Journal.

—In making apologies and explanations, Gen. Clarkson is "Old Suavity" himself, but even he has given it up as a hopeless job and lapsed into dogged silence. When a man like Clarkson is nonplussed by the republican situation it has passed all hope of redemption.—Detroit Free Press.

—Only a short time ago Benjamin Harrison as the head of the republican party was arguing against the danger of a cheap coat making a cheap man. He should ask Mr. McKinley to revise his speech. The argument that the tariff decreases the cost of products is a direct insult to the presidential intelligence.—Chicago Times.

—During ten years of high-tariff taxes more McKinley mortgages were put on the farms and homes of Kansas and Nebraska than there were inhabited houses in these states in 1890. We have extracted this fact from the census several times before, but we intend to keep it before the McKinley people until they can make up their mind to say something about it.—St. Louis Republic.

—Anything to win is the motto of the Minnesota republicans and while supporting Harrison with his ultra McKinley views they are running Knute Nelson for governor, a tariff reform man who when in congress voted for the Mills bill. The republican party has ceased to fight for principles. It wants the loaves and fishes, no matter if they have to be stolen.—Detroit Free Press.

—Four years ago Candidate Harrison was complaining that the Cleveland administration permitted public moneys to remain in designated national banks. The candidate became president. The latest monthly statement of the treasury department shows a balance of public moneys in such depositories. The amount at present is twelve million dollars. The candidate was merely indulging campaign demagoguery.—Chicago Times.

—When President Cleveland contributed \$10,000 to the campaign fund of 1888 republican journals bitterly denounced the act as one designed to export money from officeholders. Is it unreasonable then to construe President Harrison's contribution of \$25,000—if he really made it, as reported—as a gentle hint that he expects his officeholders to contribute exactly two and one-half times as much as Mr. Cleveland's paid?—N. Y. World.

—The republican impudence that talks of the verdict of 1888—a verdict rendered in November in favor of Cleveland and tariff reform by one hundred thousand majority, which was set aside by the electoral college of December for Harrison—is only equaled by its gall in claiming every black vote in the south and every white vote in the north as belonging to it.—N. Y. World.

—Andrew Carnegie has two castles now, one in Scotland and one in Pennsylvania. The former is a palace of pleasure where he spends in luxury the money earned for him by American workmen in his protected steel industry. The latter is a fort where, with Pinkertons and gunboats and hot-water tanks and deadly electric wires he keeps out the workmen who think they ought to share with him a few of the benefits of protection.—St. Louis Republic.