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Attorney-at-Law.
OFFICES—Accomac C. H. and Fair Oaks, Va.
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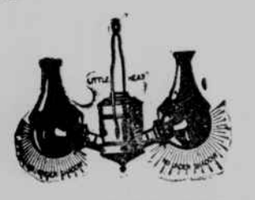

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Hay Coal, Flour, Bricks, Lime, Lathes. Shingles, Terra Cotta Piping, General Merchandise
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Talmage Sermon

By Rev.
Frank De Witt Talmage, D. D.

Los Angeles, Cal., July 26.—In this sermon the preacher demonstrates the rule of natural law in the spiritual world, and shows that physical, mental, moral and spiritual development ought to proceed harmoniously together to produce the best type of manhood and womanhood. The text is Psalm i, 6, "The way of the ungodly shall perish."

Great was the scientific galaxy of the Victorian era. Herbert Spencer and John Tyndall and Thomas Henry Huxley and Michael Faraday and Sir Humphry Davy and Sir Charles Lyell and Sir William Hooker and John Stevens Henslow and scores of other botanists and physicists and chemists and geologists will make the reign of Victoria famous during the coming centuries, as the contemporary poets of Shakespeare immortalized the Elizabethan reign. Yet among all the naturalists who lived in England during the nineteenth century not one will be more quoted by future generations than Charles Darwin. The son and grandson of two great ancestors, he was the greatest of the three. From under the overhanging dome of that great forehead there looked forth penetrating eyes which read the prehistoric genealogies of animals and vegetables. As a geologist he read the open leaves of rocks. The past ages were to him as seconds of time. He lived not in generations or in centuries, but in ages and in millenniums. Though, like Galilei, he was excommunicated by the church and looked upon as an enemy of the Cross, his researches will yet be used, and are even now being used, to prove that true science and divine revelation are one.

Of all the books which Charles Darwin wrote not one has had greater influence upon the scientific world that his "Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection." We do not accept that book in any of its godless teaching, but in that book is one sentence which in a narrow sense we do accept. "The survival of the fittest" is a sentence which will go ringing down the corridors of time. We find the survival of the fittest everywhere. We find the stronger plants crowding out the weaker. We find the stronger species living upon and driving out the weaker species. We find the stronger creatures of the various species trampling upon and destroying the animals and plants of their own kind.

Stronger Versus Weaker.

The other day I was sitting on a porch overlooking a beautiful yard filled with roses. Suddenly I heard a great commotion in the hencoop. With that I saw a big cat gracefully leap over the fence with a little chicken in her mouth. Then, off in the distance, I saw that cat run away in terror from a pursuing dog. Then, in imagination, I saw that little dog being seized by a hungry wolf. Then I saw the wolf being killed by a mountain lion. Next I saw the lion being slain by the bullet of a man. In imagination, everywhere I saw the stronger preying upon the weaker. As I sat on that porch I said to myself, "Is not Charles Darwin's sentence, 'the survival of the fittest,' not only the law of nature, but also the law of God?" Yes, yes, I said, it is true. God deals with the human race just as he deals with the vegetable and animal kingdoms, as well as with the mineral. It is not for us to vindicate that law. Our interest and our duty lie in recognizing its existence and adapting ourselves to its operation. The penalty of indolence in this world is subjection and finally extinction. The men who are weak through listlessness fall in the race against strong limbed rivals. Those who would win must strive.

Strong physically should we be. Why? Because in this rustling, bustling, pushing, jostling and high pressure age it is almost an impossibility for any man to make a success in life unless he is broad of chest, stout of limb and clear of eye. Even under the very brightest of conditions the physical strain is awful. With poor physical equipment a successful life is well nigh an impossibility.

Many a man of clear brain, true heart and noblest aspirations has been trampled underfoot merely because he had not the physical vitality to do the work which he was called upon to do. The physical weakling of the human race is almost in the same position as is a sick cow amid a herd of stampeding buffalo. If she cannot keep up in the mad race for life, she falls. She is crushed under hoof. Her sisters and brothers pass over her prostrate form and quivering flesh. The physical weakling is in the same position as is the stunted tree. The stouter tree and the taller reaches up and reaches down. With its broad branches it absorbs all the sunlight overhead and makes the stunted tree live under its shadow. With its deeper and stronger roots the tall tree absorbs most of the nutriment out of the soil. Thus, if a man is not able to stand the physical strain and do as much work as his stouter and broader chested brothers, he falls, another takes his place, and the world marches on. The physical weakling inevitably is either trampled underfoot or another pushes him out of his position in the line of the advancing human army of progress.

Survival of the Fittest.

If you do not believe in the physical survival of the fittest, sound the chests of some of our successful men. When the great Henry Ward Beecher for the first time entered the office of Dr. Orson Fowler, the phrenologist exclaimed to his partner, "My, what a fine animal!" Mr. Beecher was a fine animal. As you look upon the picture of that magnificent head you are not surprised to hear that young Henry Ward Beecher was the finest football kicker of his class in Amherst college. But as I look upon a long row of pictures of the world's most eminent ministers of the past generation I find that almost without exception they were all good animals. It is almost an impossibility for any man to stand in the front rank of the ministry today without being a physical athlete. Rev. Robert Collyer, the poetic preacher of New York, graduated from the blacksmith's forge, but many ministers who are preaching in our large cities today could easily step from the pulpit to the blacksmith forge and strike a herculean blow, so great is their physical as well as mental stamina.

I enter the law offices of the late Senator William M. Evarts. "Mr. Choate," I say, "why did your partner make the wonderful success he did? For years he stood at the head of the New York bar." Our late ambassador to England answers: "Because Mr. Evarts was a good animal. He could sit down at his desk and work on a case day in and day out for eighteen hours out of every twenty-four. He had mental equipment, and he had also unlimited physical resources." William M. Evarts was able to succeed when others failed because his backbone was strong as if made of steel. What is true of the lawyer and minister is also true of the physician, the inventor and the merchant. The reason one class of men fails and the other succeeds is often due not more to great mental strength than to physical stamina.

"The survival of the fittest." Oh, yes, we find it in the law of physical equipment. Young men, young women, in this struggle of life are you going to allow yourselves to be trampled underfoot merely because you do not look after your physical health? Are you going to let the great opportunities of life slip from your grasp merely because you have not taken the proper physical exercise and food and sleep for your lungs and heart and stomach? "Oh," said William T. Sherman to General Grant one day, "I feel just as able to carry on another war as I did twenty years ago." "You may feel so, Sherman," answered General Grant, "but feeling so does not make you able. We may be mentally as bright as we ever were, but we could not stand the physical strain." The civil war was fought and won just as much by Grant's stomach as by Grant's brain. Young people, by the law of the survival of the fittest God bids you take care of yourselves physically. This is a truism, but it is a truism the Darwinian teachings, as well as the divine commandments, never tire of pressing home to human hearts. I see the broad, stout chested farmer's boy coming to the town and pushing the pale faced physical weaklings to right and left.

Christian Communism.

I would also tell you that there is an inexorable law of the survival of the fittest in the mental world. The man who can think the quickest, the man who can supply some long felt want in the community, is the man who is going to crowd his competitors to the wall, and there is no help for it. The same law which makes it possible for a cat to pounce upon a little chicken or a leopard to leap upon the back of a fawn is precisely the same law which makes it possible for the man of brains to climb to his throne over the backs of men who have no brains. Communism says: "That is not right. No one man should have more than his fellows." But communism may talk from now until doomsday. Talking will do no good. There is a universal law of the survival of the fittest in a mental way, and no communism except the communism of Christian love can change it.

How is this law working out—that brains which think trample over brains which do not think? Why, you can see its results on every hand. Thirty or forty years ago every little town had its cobbler. This cobbler not only repaired the shoes and boots, but also made the shoes and boots, but one day there came along a man with brains. He said to himself: "What is the use of all these cobblers making their boots by hand? I will make machinery do the work of flesh and blood." This man of brains went to work. He built a large factory. He employed 200 hands. He made these 200 hands, with the use of machinery, do five times the work which the same number of hands used to do. He also lowered the selling prices. The shoes and boots were sold one-third cheaper than they used to be. The man of brains who drove out the village cobbler was the same kind of man that drove out the village wheelwright. The man of brains who drove away the village cobbler is also the kind of man of brains who took away the business of the typesetter. One day this man of brains walked into the printing office and said: "Here, editor, is a typesetting machine. Instead of employing twenty, thirty, fifty men to set your type, all that you will have to do is to have a man sit down at this machine, as a Paderewski sits down at the piano. He can play the keys for awhile and the whole work is done." "But," cry the village cobblers and the village wheelwrights and the old typesetters, "you have taken away our life's work. We cannot do aught but follow the line of work we used to do. We shall starve. We shall die." But the inexorable law of the survival of the fittest means that these machines shall exist and that the man of thinking brains shall triumph over the man whose brains never think.

Getting Sidetracked.

The fittest survive in the mental realm. There is no doubt about it. Now, my friends, and especially my young friends, what are you going to do about this fact? Are you going to let your brains lie dormant? Because some have been cobblers for twenty years, are you still to be a cobbler now? Are you mentally going to try to do the work of the present century in the way our forefathers did things and not by the present up to date methods? Are you going to resist the advancements of the times in the way some nearsighted Pennsylvania farmers did many years ago? I may not be giving these facts exactly right, but the story I am telling is substantially true. One of the prominent railroads of the east was extending its lines toward Pittsburg. The railroad officials wanted to run their iron rails through a certain township. The farmers rose up in protest. They said: "If we allow this railroad to be built it will do all the hauling. Our farms will be broken up, and our horses will be useless, because then there will be nothing left for them to carry to market." These farmers not only protested thus, but in the state legislative halls at Harrisburg, through their representative, they defeated that railroad from running through their township. The result was that that railroad going into Pittsburg took another course. The old farmers' township is now sidetracked. It is nothing but a simple country town. On the other hand, the valley through which that railroad now runs is prosperous and wealthy. Land has doubled and trebled in value. There is an inevitable law of the survival of the fittest in brains. How are you grasping your opportunities? Are you trying to make the world travel in stagecoaches and canal boats when the shrieking whistle of the Overland Limited is calling its passengers to get aboard? If you do not develop your brains, then, by the law of man and the law of God, to the wall you must go. "The survival of the fittest" is the mental demonstration of life. Never let that one truth out of your mind until you have developed your intellect to its highest possibilities.

But the fittest survive in the moral world as well as in the physical and the mental. The man who is honest and true and noble will always, in the long run, win over the man who is deceitful and dishonest. There is absolutely no doubt about it. All other things being equal, there is a survival of the fittest in the moral realm. Yet to hear some people talk you would suppose that it never pays to be honest or truthful in business life.

"Sell where you can sell the dearest. Buy where you can buy the cheapest. Get all of the money out of the people you can without landing in jail," is their motto. "Look at P. T. Barnum's success," they say. "In one of his books the great showman says, 'The American people love to be humbugged.'" Then he had the unlimited impudence to write a book entitled "The Humbugs of the World." In that book he showed how he had humbugged the American people. "Oh, yes," they say, "it never pays to be honest. The man who can cheat and deceive and lie and steal the most in business is the man who makes the greatest success in mercantile life." Is that your opinion of mercantile life? Well, my friend, I want to tell you that you are wrong, and wrong in toto. There is a survival of the fittest in the moral world. All other things being equal, the man who is true and honest and upright and just is the man who will win in business life, and not the scoundrel.

Fair Dealing.

The merchant who is successful in the true sense of the word is not the man who cheats his customers, but the man who will give his customers more for their money than any one else will give. A great merchant builds up his business by winning the confidence and the respect of a community, not by selling them shoddy goods. The story is told that many years ago a new trader went out to live among the Indians. No sooner had he landed and opened his store than the Indian chief came to him and bought some goods. The chief said, "I pay you tomorrow." The next day the Indian chief returned with many members of his tribe. Then he commenced to pay the trader for his goods. He gave him one otter skin, then another skin, then another skin and then another skin until he had given to him four skins. The goods were worth just about four skins. Then the chief drew out a beautiful otter skin and offered it also. He offered this fifth skin to test the trader's honesty. "Chief," said the trader, "I do not want that fifth skin. You have paid me enough." The Indian chief said: "No, no. White man, take this skin also." Again and again the white trader refused. "No, chief," said he, "you have paid me enough. I do not want any more." With that the Indian chief gave a grunt of satisfaction. He turned to his warriors and said: "Come, trade with paleface. He honest man." Then turning to the white trader he said: "Paleface, suppose you take that last skin, Indian no trade with you. Then me know you dishonest white man." Ah, yes, the old Indian trader knew the law of the survival of the fittest in the business world. The way the great merchant builds up his true business success is not by cheating his customers, but by always being honest, always true and always trying to give his customers more for their money than they can get in any other store.

As there is a survival of the fittest in the physical and mental and moral realms, so there is also a survival in the spiritual realm. Charles Darwin never meant to apply this sentence to the spiritual world, but God does. God emphatically does this in the words of my text. How does the first psalm of David read? The godly "shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth its fruit in its season. His leaf also shall not wither, and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. * * * But the way of the ungodly shall perish." Yes, there is the law of the survival of the fittest in the spiritual world. If we are one with Christ, we shall grow and keep on growing all through the eternities. We shall bear fruit millennium after millennium. If we are not one with Christ, we shall become "like the chaff which the wind driveth away." The whirlwinds of the judgment day shall sweep us away to our eternal doom.

"But," says one, "how could a man like Charles Darwin grasp a great truth like this of the natural world and yet not grasp it in the spiritual? How could he find God's footprints in nature and yet not find God's footsteps on Calvary's rocks?" Ah, my friends, I cannot account for that. I cannot and dare not pass judgment on Charles Darwin's life. I cannot understand how this great student of nature could turn his back upon God any more than I can understand how he who was once such a lover of the beautiful could so warp his mind that the poets like Shakespeare and the musicians like Handel and Beethoven and Wagner could not touch his heart.

In his own words I read the following: "I have said that in one respect my mind has changed during the last twenty years. Up to the age of thirty or beyond it poetry of many kinds, such as the works of Milton, Gray, Byron, Wordsworth, Coleridge and Shelley, gave me great pleasure, and even as a schoolboy I took intense delight in Shakespeare, especially in the historical plays. I have also said that formerly pictures gave me considerable pleasure and music very great delight. But now, for many years, I cannot endure to read a line of poetry. I have tried lately to read Shakespeare and found it so intolerably dull that it nauseated me. I have also lost my taste for music and pictures. I retain some taste for fine scenery, but it does not cause me the exquisite delight which it formerly did." In other words, Charles Darwin became such a close student in one line of study that he allowed his love for the beautiful in art and nature and his love for God to become atrophied. Parts of his brain were mightily alive. Some parts were completely dead.

Develop Through Christ.

Let me read on a little further: "My mind seems to have become a kind of machine for grinding general laws out of large collections of facts, but why this should have caused the atrophy of that part of the brain alone on which the higher tastes depend I cannot conceive. A man with a mind more highly organized or better constituted than mine would not, I suppose, have thus suffered, and if I had to live my life again I would have made a rule to read some poetry and listen to some music at least once a week, for perhaps the parts of my brain now atrophied would thus have been kept active through use. The loss of these tastes is a loss of happiness and may possibly be injurious to the intellect and more probably to the moral character by enfeebling the emotional part of our nature." Do you wonder that Darwin, who wrote such sentences as these, could let the spiritual part of his life become atrophied as well as the aesthetic and the love for the beautiful? And so, young people as well as older people, as you develop along physical and moral lines I want you to develop along the line of the spiritual. I want you to develop in Christ and through Christ, who is the highest model for all spiritual development.

"But," says some one, "I have never tried to develop myself in and through Christ." Then, my brother, is that any reason why you should not start now? When an enemy one day taunted the great preacher Esprit Flechier because of his humble birth and because he had begun life as a tallow chandler, Dr. Flechier replied, "Yes, my sphere in life used to be very humble, but in all probability had you begun life as I began it you would have been a candle maker all your life." Because some of us are warped spiritually is that any reason why, in Christ, we cannot become "like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth its fruit in its season?" Oh, my friends, in Christ and through Christ, will you not spiritually start anew? Then, by law of the survival of the fittest with God, you shall prosper and live forever and ever. Will you not, here and now, become one with Christ for the highest of all development?

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A Titled Missionary.

One of the most picturesque characters in Europe is the Countess Schimmelmann of Denmark. She devotes her life to missionary work. For eight years she has traveled extensively in heathen lands. She sold nearly all her property and out of the proceeds bought the Pigeon, a vessel, with which she visited fifty-seven cities in fifteen countries, preaching the gospel to sailors and the poor. She has founded religious journals in England and America. This method of spending money does not appeal to her relatives, who do not share her views. She has adopted three children and given them her name.

Fruit and the Drinking Habit.

Fruit is the newest cure for alcoholism. Writing in a popular magazine, Paul Arr says of fruit that it is the one sure cure for the drinking habit. Eating fruit "will cure the worst case of inebriety that ever afflicted a person," he says. "No person ever saw a man or woman who liked fruit and who had an appetite for drink. No person ever saw a man or woman with an appetite for drink who liked fruit. The two tastes are at deadly enmity with each other, and there is no room for both of them in the same human constitution. One will certainly destroy the other."

Buy It Now.

Now is the time to buy Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy. It is certain to be needed sooner or later and when that time comes you will need it badly—you will need it quickly. Buy it now. It may save life. For sale by
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Good for Stomach Trouble and Constipation.

"Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets have done me a great deal of good," says C. Towns, of Rat Portage, Ontario, Canada. "Being a mild physic the after effects are not unpleasant, and I can recommend them to all who suffer from stomach disorder." For sale by
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And you will need a Wedding Present for the occasion. To get it you must come to me, if you want the best, for the least money. My stock of Sterling Silverware, and other articles suitable for wedding presents is unusually large and complete, as also my stock of Watches, Jewelry, Silver Novelties and everything belonging to a Jewelry Store of the first-class (now in my new brick store between Postoffice and Hotel.

The reason that my prices are so low, is that I keep down expenses—buy close for cash, and am satisfied with much smaller profits than you pay elsewhere. You save more than I make on each article you buy from me. My long experience teaches me that this method is best for me as well as my customers. I am a graduate optician and refractionist and fit you properly with glasses—making no charge for examining your eyes.

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