DR. TALMAGE.

The Eminent Brooklyn Divine Preaches in Chicago.

Morning Sermon at the Third Presbyterian Church on the Twelve Gates.

An Eloquent Rebuke of Sectarianism and of Narrow Creeds.

A Description of the Glories of the Heavenly Kingdom.

A Discourse at Farwell Hall for the Benefit of Young Men.

A Strong Plea for the Inspiration of the Holy Scriptures.

THE GATES OF PEARL.

DR. TALMAGE'S MORNING SERMON.

Dr. Talmage, of Brooklyn, preached to a vast audience yesterday morning in the Third Presbyterian Church, one of the largest religious edifices in Chicago. The ordinary seating capacity of the church, when comfortably full, is about 2,500. Every seat was taken yesterday morning on the main floor and in the gallery, while the aisles around the sides of both, and portions of the aisles leading down to the pulpit, were packed with tiers of people who were perforce content with standing-room, since sitting-room was altogether out of the question. The doors of the audience-room, opening on the vestibule and the gallery steps, were left open, and both vestibule and stairs were packed and jammed with hundreds on hundreds of other patient ones, glad enough, apparently, even to be within hearing distance. The whole scene was a forcible reminder of the similar reception accorded the Rev. Henry Ward Beecher some two or three years ago at Plymouth Congregational Church on the South Side. When it is added that fully a thousand people—perhaps more—surged up against the front door long after the house was full, unable to get even one foot inside, the reader will have some idea of the size of the crowd which massed yesterday morning from all sections of the city for the purpose of hearing the famous Brooklyn divine. Those who failed in their purpose were of course greatly disappointed, but that disappointment will be somewhat tempered with satisfaction when they look into THE TRIBUNE this morning and read what they were unable yesterday to hear.

THE GREAT PULPIT ORATOR

from the City of Churches has not grown perceptibly older since he was last in Chicago. The prominent nose, the bald forehead, the shoulder-of-mutton side-whiskers, and the cleanly-shaven chin and upper lip have not changed, but are as prominent facial characteristics as ever. If anybody looked for any degree of special animation or gesticulation yesterday morning he must have been greatly disappointed. Beyond a deal of walking across the pulpit platform and twice or thrice clapping his hands to emphasize a bit of enthusiasm, especially prominent point in the discourse, there was nothing in the Brooklyn preacher's actions to distinguish him from the average earnest and intense expounder of the Gospel. There has been an apparent toning-down of late years, and in that remains is the now somewhat harsh and now melting peculiarities of voice, the same old-time vigor and earnestness, the same abhorrence and detestation of hypocrisy and sham, the flashes of eloquence, and the frequently bright, crisp way of putting things.

The Rev. A. T. Pierson, pastor of the Third Church, occupied the pulpit with the Brooklyn brother, and directed the conduct of the services. They had not progressed very far when the venerable Dr. William Beecher marched up the pulpit steps and was given a chair to Talmage's right. The well-known black skull-cap was soon adjusted to the equally well-known bald head, and the Chicago member of the Beecher family sat back in his chair the picture of content. Whether he changed his mind, however, and longed for a seat on the plush-covered sofa, the fact remains that he had not sat still very long before he got up, shoved the chair along the platform, and, with more noise than grace, handed it over the railing to a lady in corkscrew curls who was standing below, whereupon, amidst the audible smiles of the audience, he sat down alongside of Talmage, where he remained during the rest of the services.

THE ONLY UNUSUAL FEATURE

about the introductory services was the baptism of three little children—a ceremony which Talmage afterwards not inaptly alluded to in the course of his sermon. The audience got its first good look at him when he arose and, in a somewhat schoolboyish way—halting here and there and bestowing his emphasis after a curious, juvenile fashion—gave out Hymn 496, otherwise known as "Rock of Ages." The volume of sound which went up from the vast audience as it joined in this favorite song of penitents and believers was one of the most impressive features of the whole services.

Dr. Kittredge, after making the usual announcements, introduced the visiting brother by saying, "We have the pleasure of listening this morning to the Rev. Dr. Talmage, of Brooklyn," and invited the congregation to look with him to God for a blessing upon the words he was about to speak. At the conclusion of the prayer, Dr. Talmage stepped to the desk, opened the Sacred Book, announced his text, and plunged at once into his discourse. He spoke almost exactly an hour, and chained the undivided attention of the vast throng of hearers from the moment he oped his lips until he sat down.

THE DISCOURSE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

And the twelve gates were twelve pearls.—*Revelation, xxi., 21.*

My text speaks of a great metropolis, the existence of which many have doubted. There has been an unwholesome infidelity as to it, but no emigration from it so far as our natural eyesight can descry. "There is no such city," says the undevout astronomer. "I have stood in a high tower, and with a mighty telescope I have swept the heavens, and I have seen spots on the sun and caverns in the moon, but no such city walls, no shining street, no palaces have arisen on my vision. There is no such city." A great many people have nearly joined in this theory by saying that all the Bible descriptions of Heaven are figurative, that Heaven is not a place of physical organisms, but a great spiritual fact—nothing but a spiritual fact. They may be right, and they may be wrong. In opposition to the theory I often hear presented, I quote the words of Christ, and He ought to know: "I go to prepare"—a theory? No. "I go to prepare"—a sentiment? No. "I go to prepare"—a principle? No. "I go to prepare"—a condition? No. "I go to prepare a place for you." Place! The doctrine of the Resurrection implies this. If my foot is to be resurrected from the dust, I must have something to tread on. If my hand is to be reformed in the Resurrection, I must have something to handle. If my eye is to see sight, having gone out in the throes of death, is to be rekindled, I must have something to gaze at. Your opposing theory seems to imply that the resurrected body is to be hung on nothing, or to float amid the intangible. We walk on the earth and ever. Some say if there were to be physical organisms in Heaven, then the joys of the righteous would be cramped and hindered. O no! Wasn't there room for Adam and Eve in Paradise, and hadn't they body and soul as well? And don't you suppose that God, one of the innumerables, could find room for all His children? Yes, he could build a world for each one, if need be, and have plenty of room. Herschel looked into the heavens. As a Swiss guide puts his alpenstock between the glaciers and glides from one to crag, so Herschel put his telescope between the worlds and glided from star to star, and he came back and told us that we lived in a part of the universe sparsely strewn with worlds, and that he found one place no larger than our solar system where there were 50,000 worlds moving on in their stupendous circles. Plenty of room for all God's children, though there be physical organism as well as a great spiritual fact. As a great army about to camp upon the top of a mountain just before the nightfall look off upon the landscape in which are castles to be captured the following day, join in the chargers and bait, and take one good long look before they pitch their tents for the night, so now we, having camped on this mountain-top of Gospel privilege, rein our thought a little while, and, before we pitch our tents for the night,

TAKE ONE GOOD LONG LOOK AT THE GATES OF THE GREAT CITY.

"And the twelve gates were twelve pearls." Ah, my friends, it is only the outside of the gate that Christians have seen in this world of sin. And if that brightness is so great, what must be the inside of the gate. It was only the outside of the gate that flashed upon the celebrated Tyndall in his dying moment when he said "Light"; and then, just the instant before he departed, lifted both hands and said, "Light"; and the very moment of his departure, his face illumined with the glory to come, cried out, "Light." It is only the outside of the gate that gleamed upon the pillow of Christmas Evans, the glorious Welsh minister, in the hour of his departure. In a pleasant delirium he thought that his bed was a throne, and that the family and friends standing on either side of the bed were his subjects and he was a King. And he mistook the man that stood at the foot of the bed for the charioteer. And, at the last moment, thinking he was a King, as he soon would be a King, and upon a throne or upon a chariot, he waved his hand to one side of the bed and said, "Farewell," and then to the other side he waved his hand as a King might wave his hand to his subjects; and then to the man at the foot of the bed, whom he took to be the charioteer, he cried, "Drive on." It was only the outside of the gate that kindled the deathbed in my house and the deathbed in your house. It was only the outside of the gate that lifted the glory upon the last moments of our departed loved ones.

"And the twelve gates were twelve pearls." I call your attention, my friends, in the first place to

THE ARCHITECTURE OF THESE GATES.

Every palace, every lordly park, has an ornamented gateway. It may be an archway of masonry. It may be the posts are flanked with deer in statuary, the bronze gate a representation of intertwining foliage, bird-haunted, until the hand of architectural genius stops here. Its the front door of the stone. Nearly all the ancient cities had a gate of wood, or iron, or brass, or stone—Babylon 100 gates, Thebes 100 gates. Sometimes, as in the case of the Muslim, they inscribed beautiful sentiments upon the gates. The Muslim inscribed a beautiful sentiment from the Koran on the gates. People in old times had beautiful inscriptions upon the gates, but all the gates of earth are nothing as compared with the gates of Heaven. Christ set His hand to the work. With the nail of His own cross He can upon it wonderful inscriptions of past entering and of glories to come. O the gate, the gate not made up of a piece of pearl from the banks of Ceylon, and another piece of pearl from the Island of Margarita, and another piece of pearl from the Persian Gulf; no, a solid pearl lifted from the beach of everlasting light by heavenly hands, and hoisted and swung amid the chanting of angels. O the gate, the gate! You and I will see it. That gate puts out all the glory of feldspar, and Bohemian diamond, and alabaster pillar, and porphyry vase. One little precious stone upon the finger will gleam very brightly in the midnight, but O when that gate shall swing before our vision—the gate! the gate! struck through and dripping with eternal noontide! Julius Cæsar gave 125,000 crowns for one pearl. The Government of Portugal boasts that it owns a pearl larger than a pear. Philip, the Second and Caligula dazzled the world with precious stones. But all these glories, and all these beauties, and all the wealth of the pearl fisheries, and all the precious stones of all the ages put into the panel of one door will give no idea of the Heavenly gateway. One step this side of the gate of pearl, and one step the other side we are Kings. Against one side of the gate put the splendors of earthly beauty; against the other side of the gate put the surges of eternal glory. The sorrow-struck of earth, going through that gate, will find all tears crystallized into this great pearl. I have sometimes seen chemists try to analyze a tear, and they think they have successfully analyzed a tear when they say it is so much salt, so much lime, and this and that component part; but they miss the chief ingredient of a tear. What is a tear? There is a Divine analysis of it, a Christian analysis of it. I will tell you what a tear is.

IT IS AGONY IN SOLUTION.

But the tears of earth will be the crystals of heaven.

When shall these eyes thy heaven-built wall
And pearly gates behold?
Thy bulwarks with salvation strong
And streets of shining gold?

Oh Heaven is not a dull place. Heaven is not a contracted place. Heaven is not a stupid place. There were twelve gates and there were twelve pearls; and they are so near this morning if you put your hand out you can touch them. Yea, they are nearer than that. You can touch them with your heart-throbs. Oh the gate, the gate! I cry upward, and I get answer, "Are you ever weary there?"

A voice comes back saying, "This is the everlasting rest."

"Are no you ever sick there?"

A voice comes back saying, "The inhabitant here never says, 'I am sick.'"

"Have you to toil hard for a livelihood there?"

A voice comes back saying, "We never hunger, and we never thirst."

Oh now we see the place is! I am not surprised that the Christian in his last moments, catching a glimpse of the gate, is thrilled with it. The Christian comes down to the water of death, and he wades into the water of death until the wave comes to the ankle, and he says, "Lord Jesus, is this death?"

"No," says Christ, "this is not."

And he still wades down to the Jordan of death until the wave comes to the knee, and he says, "Lord Jesus, is this death?"

"No," says Christ, "this is not."

And he wades deeper down into the Jordan of death until the wave comes to the girdle; and no says, "Lord Jesus, is this death? Is this death?"

"No," says Christ, "this is not."

And he wades down deeper into the wave until the billow reaches the lip, and he cries, "Lord Jesus, is this death?"

"No," says Christ, "this is not death."

But when Christ had seated that soul on a throne of triumph, and all the joy and pomp of heaven came surging to his feet, then Christ said: "This, oh trembling sinner, this, this is death."

But I want you, in the next place, to consider the number of gates. I have noticed that, while great parks and King's estates have one ornamental gateway—that is about all—the others are very apt to be very ordinary gates. How is it with this City of Heaven? Count them. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, eleven, twelve. Hear it all the earth and all the heavens! Twelve gates! I admit

THIS IS VERY HARD ON SHARP SECTARIANISMS.

Here is a bigoted Presbyterian, and he comes with his Westminster Assembly catechism, and he lifts that for a gate, and he says: "Now, you go through that gate into Heaven or stay out." [Laughter.] And here comes a bigoted member of the Reformed Dutch Church, and he lifts the Heidelberg catechism as a gate, and he says: "Now, you go through that gate, or stay out." Here comes a bigoted Methodist, and he plants two posts for a gate, and he says: "Now, you go in between those two posts, or stay out." A bigoted Baptist comes along, and he lifts a water-gate [laughter], and he says: "Now, you go through that, or forever stay out." [Laughter.] And here comes a bigoted Episcopalian, and he lifts a liturgy for a gate, and he says, "You go through that liturgy or stay out." And so in all our denominations there are small-souled men who have contracted notions about the Gospel, and contracted notions about Heaven. O, small-souled man, when did God

GIVE YOU THE CONTRACT FOR MAKING GATES?

[Great laughter.] Ah, I will tell you plainly, I want to go through each gate—I will go through any gate that Christ lifted, and He lifted twelve. He lifts the twelve-gated Gospel. A man comes to me, and says, "I can now easily approach my God through a liturgy." I say to him, "My brother, always use a liturgy." A man comes to me, and he says, "I believe there is only one mode of baptism, and that is by immersion." I say, "My dear brother, immerse me, my brother." And I have a baptistry under my pulpit, though it is a Presbyterian church. A man comes to me, and he says, "I like to see a minister of the Gospel in gowns, bands, and surplice. So let it be. Another man comes and he says, "I prefer a minister of Christ to dress in plain citizen's apparel." So let it be.

Twelve gates, and all open! The fact is, that some of the churches of Jesus Christ in this day are doctrined to death. They go into the discussion about the decrees of God, as to how many are elected to be saved, and how many are reprobated to be lost, and they forget the fact that all men need the Gospel put to them, and that they must all repent or be lost. I can tell whether a man is elected or not. Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and give up your sin, and you are elected. But how many there are who sit studying the infinitesimals of religion—the non-essentials! They sit counting the number of teeth in the jawbone with which Samson slew the Philistines—[laughter]—and go into the abstruse argument to show who Melchizedek wasn't [laughter]—stay on the beach, looking off, and saying to the vessels in the offing, instead of getting into the lifeboat and pulling away for the wreck, they sit discussing the different styles of car-lock. [Laughter.] It is a twelve-gated Gospel. There are only two doctrines in the Bible that mightily affect us,—

MAN A SINNER AND CHRIST A SAVIOR,—

and if any man has these two theories of his creed, I give him my hand in a warm grip of Christian fellowship. We go into the river in time of freshet; we have no boat; we must swim to the other beach. What is the first thing we do? Put down all the impedimenta; throw off all obstacles. You and I after a while come down to the river of death, and we will find it swift and rushing, and we shall have to swim. We will have to do it. We will be to put down all our cumbrous theologies, and all our heavy sectarianism, and in the simple faith of Christ put out for the other shore.

"But," say you, "would you make all Christians worship under the same form, and in the same kind of church, and have the same ecclesiastical polity?"

Oh, no. You might as well decree what kind of food people shall eat, without reference to appetite; or what kind of apparel they shall wear, without reference to the shape of their bodies, the century, your temperament, your antecedents, your ancestry, your surroundings, will decide whether this or that church can better get you to Heaven. I believe in creeds. I have no sympathy with the outcry against creeds. Every man has a creed who believes anything. It may not be printed in a book, but it is in his heart. I believe in creeds; we must believe something. I have no objection to there being a fence, and a very high fence, around every denomination or Christians; I think there ought to be a fence around every denomination of Christians, but you must be born you can let down it and a gate you can swing open.

Well, now, they are coming up to the gates of Heaven. "Do you really think you will get in?" I here declare that all who accept Christ, whatever be their creed—

ALL WHO ACCEPT CHRIST AS THEIR PERSONAL SAVIOR—

will get through the gates. There has got to be a great change yet before we come up to the high point that the Quaker reached when he said to George Whitfield—George having chided him somewhat about his style of apparel—"George, I am as thou art; I am for bringing all men to the faith of the Gospel; therefore, if thou will not quarrel with me about my broad brim, I will not quarrel with thee about thy black gown. George, give me thy hand." We want a large-hearted Christian charity for those who differ from us. Four men went to see an obelisk at the East—far away at the East—and the four men looked each one at the one side of the obelisk, and came home. After a while, the four men were in consultation, and they grew angry in the discussion about the color of the obelisk. One man said it was gray, another that it was blue, another that it was yellow, and another that it was red. After a while a man who had walked all around the obelisk came in, and he said: "You are all wrong, and you are all right: I have walked all round the obelisk; and I have seen all the colors on all sides." Blessed is that man who has a heart large enough and a head large enough to walk all round the doctrines of the Gospel, and all round the Church of Jesus Christ. There would be no more contention. Bigotry is an owl of the night that roosts in the belfry of many churches. My father has been many years in Heaven. He died, after serving the Lord for many years, at 82. I went through the gate. I do not think he knew whether he was a sublapsarian or a supralapsarian; I do not believe he has found out yet.

Twelve gates! I go out into the field on a summer day, and I find two beehives in a recess, one beehive says, "That field of clover is the best, and this is the best beehive." The other says the same thing in regard to another field of clover. I come in and say, "Stop this contest; I can tell which is the best—that which has the most honey." And I go out, and I find denominations of Christians in a contest; I say, "Stop this war; you say this field of doctrine is the best, and you say that field of doctrine is the best. I can tell which is the best, and which is the best church, and which will be finally triumphant; it is that which produces the best honey of Christian grace in the heart, and the best honey of Christian service for the life."

Well, now, they are coming up. Do you really think they will get through? They will. Gate the first; the Moravians come up; they believe in the Lord Jesus Christ; they pass through. Gate the second: the Quakers come up; they have received an inward light; they have trusted in the Lord; they pass through. Gate the third; the Lutherans come up; they had a great admiration for their reformer, and believed in the same Christ that saved him; and they pass through. Gate the fourth; many of those who were brought up under the Roman Catholic Church, looking beyond the ceremonies of their Church, believe in salvation by Jesus Christ; for I have had Roman Catholic servant maids in my house who were an example to the whole household. It does not make any difference what else they believe, or what else they do in this century, your interpolations