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TALMAGE'S SERMON.

"CHURCH DECADENCE" LAST SUNDAY'S SUBJECT.

Says That Church Attendance Is on the Increase—"Not Forsaking the Assembling of Ourselves Together"—Hebrews x: 25.

[Copyright, 1901, by Louis Klopsch, N. Y.] Washington, Sept. 15.—Most encouraging to all Christian workers is this discourse of Dr. Talmage while denying the accuracy of statistics which represent Sunday audiences as diminishing; text, Hebrews x: 25, "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together."

Startling statements have been made in many of the pulpits and in some of the religious newspapers. It is heard over and over again that church attendance in America is in decadence. I deny the statements by presenting some hard facts. No one will dispute the fact that there are more churches in America than ever before, one denomination averaging two new churches every day of the year. The law of demand and supply is as inexorable in the kingdom of God as it is in the world. More churches supplied argues more church privileges demanded. More banks, more bankers; more factories, more manufacturers; more ships, more importers; more churches, more attendants.

In all our cities within a few years churches have been built large enough to swallow up two or three of the old-time churches. I cannot understand with what kind of arithmetic and slate pencil a man calculates when he comes to the conclusion that church attendance in America is in decadence. Take the aggregate of the number of people who enter the house of God now and compare it with the aggregate of the people who entered the house of God twenty-five years ago, and the present attendance is four to one. The facts are most exhilarating instead of being depressing. That man who represents the opposite statistics must have been most unfortunate in his church acquaintance.

Use of Modern Methods.
Churches are often cleared of their audiences by the attempt to transplant the modes of the past into the present. The modes and methods of fifty years ago are no more appropriate for to-day than the modes and methods of to-day will be appropriate for fifty years hence. Dr. Kirk, Dr. McElroy, Dr. Mason, Dr. De Witt, Dr. Vermilyea and hundreds of other men just as good as they were never lacked audiences, because they were abreast of the time in which they lived. People will not be interested in what we say unless we understand the spirit of the day in which we live. All the woe-begone statistics are given by those who are trying in our time to work with the worn-out machinery of the past times. Such men might just as well throw the furnaces out of our church basements and substitute the foot stoves which our grandmothers used to carry with them to meeting, and throw out our organs and our cornets and take the old-fashioned tuning fork, striking it on the knee and then lifting it to the ear to catch the pitch of the hymn, and might as well throw out our modern platforms and modern pulpits and substitute the wineglass pulpit up which the minister used to climb to the dizzy height of Mont Blanc solitariness and then go in and out of sight and shut the door after him. When you can get the great masses of the people to take passage from Albany to Buffalo in a stage-coach or canalboat in preference to the lightning express train which does it in four hours, then you can get the great masses of the people to go to a church half a century behind the time.

Sympathies of the People.
At a meeting of the general assembly of the Presbyterian church of the United States a clergyman accustomed on the Sabbath to preach to an audience of two or three hundred people, in an audience room that could hold fifteen hundred, was appointed to preach a sermon on how to reach the masses. I am told the incongruity was too much for the risibilities of many of the clergy in the audience. Now, a young man coming out from such bedwaring influences, how can he enter into the wants and the woes and the sympathies of the people who want on the Lord's day a practical gospel that will help them all the week and help them forever?

Young ministers are told they must preach Christ and him crucified. Yes, but not as an abstraction. Many a minister has preached Christ and him crucified in such a way that he preached an audience of five hundred down to two hundred, and from two hundred to one hundred, and from one hundred to fifty, and from fifty to twenty, and on down until there was but little left save the sexton, who was paid to stay until the service was over and lock up. There is a great deal of cant about Christ and him crucified. It is not Christ and him crucified as an abstraction, but as an omnipotent sympathy

applied to all the wants and woes of our immortal nature—a Christ who will help us in every domestic, social, financial, political, national struggle—a Christ for the parlor, a Christ for the nursery, a Christ for the kitchen, a Christ for the banking house, a Christ for the street, a Christ for the store, a Christ for the banking house, a Christ for the factory, a Christ for the congressional assembly, a Christ for the courtroom, a Christ for every trial and every emergency and every perturbation.

Meeting Public Needs.
Ah, my friends, churches will be largely attended just in proportion as we ministers can meet their wants, meet their sufferings, meet their bereavements and meet their sympathies. If there be a church with small help, small audience, medium help, medium audience; large help, large audience. If there be a famine in a city and three depots of bread and one depot has 100 loaves and another 500 loaves and another depot 10,000 loaves, the depot that has 100 loaves will have applicants, the depot that has 500 loaves will have far more applicants, the depot that has 10,000 loaves will have throngs, throngs, throngs.

Oh, my brethren in the Christian ministry, we must somehow get our shoulder under the burden of the people on the Lord's day and give them a good stout life, and we can do it. We have it all our own way. It is a great pity if, with the floor clear and no interruption, we cannot during the course of an hour get our hymn or our prayer or our sermon under such momentum we can, by the help of God, lift the people, body, mind and soul, clear out of their sins, temptations and troubles.

I think that ministerial laziness often empties the church of auditors. Hearers, who are intelligent through reading newspapers and by active association in business circles, will not on the Sabbath sit and listen to platitudes. Hearers will not come to sermons which have in them no important facts, no information, no stirring power, no adaptation, no fire. The pew will not listen to the pulpit unless the pulpit knows more than the pew. Ministerial laziness has cleared out many churches. Such ministers saunter around from parlor to parlor under the name of pastoral visitation and go gadding about through the village or the city on errands of complete nothingness and wrap their brains around a cigar and smoke them up, and then on Saturday afternoon put a few crude thoughts together and on Sunday morning wonder that the theme of Christ and him crucified does not bring a large audience, and on Monday sit down and write jeremiads for the religious newspapers about the decadence of church attendance.

Churchgoing as a Duty.
People will not go to church merely as a matter of duty. There will not next Sabbath be a thousand people in any city who will get up in the morning and say: "The Bible says I must go to church. It is my duty to go to church, therefore I will go to church." The vast multitude of people who go to church go to church because they like it, and the multitude of people who stay away from church stay away because they do not like it. I am not speaking about the way the world ought to be, I am speaking about the way the world is. Taking things as they are, we must make the centripetal force of the church mightier than the centrifugal.

We must make our churches magnets to draw the people thereto, so that a man will feel uneasy if he does not go to church, saying: "I wish I had gone this morning. I wonder if I can't dress yet and get there in time. It is 11 o'clock; now they are singing. It is half-past 11; now they are preaching. I wonder when the folks will be home to tell us what was said, what has been going on." When the impression is confirmed that our churches, by architecture, by music, by sociality and by sermon, shall be made the most attractive places on earth, then we will have twice as many churches as we have now, twice as large, and then they will not half accommodate the people.

Vicarious Suffering.
Why should we go away off to get an illustration of the vicarious suffering of Jesus Christ when at Bloomfield, N. J., two little children were walking on the rail track and a train was coming; but they were on a bridge of trestlework, and the little girl took her brother and let him down through the trestlework as gently as she could toward the water, very carefully and lovingly and cautiously, so that he might not be hurt in the fall and picked up by those who were standing near by; while doing that the train struck her, and hardly enough of her body was left to gather into a funeral casket? What was that? Vicarious suffering. Like Christ, Pang for others. Woe for others. Death for others. What is the use of our going away off to find an illustration in past ages when in Michigan a mail carrier on horseback, riding on, pursued by those flames which had swept over a hundred miles, saw an old man by the

roadside, dismounted, helped the old man on the horse, saying, "Now, whip up and get away." The old man got away, but the mail carrier perished. Just like Christ dismounting from the glories of heaven to put us on the way of deliverance, then falling back into the flames of sacrifice for others. Pang for others. Vicarious suffering. What is the use of our going away off in ancient history to find an illustration of the fact that it is dangerous to defy God when in the Adirondacks I saw a flash of lightning and bolt so vivid I said, "That struck something very near?" A few hours afterward we found that two farmers that Monday morning had been seated under a tree, the one boasting how the day before—on the Lord's day—he had got his hay in and so cheated the Lord out of that part of the time anyhow, and both of them laughing over the achievement by which they had wronged the Lord of his holy day, when the lightning struck one dead instantly, and the other had been two weeks in bed when we left the Adirondacks and has become an invalid, I suppose, for life. He did not make as much out of the Lord as he thought he did. Was it any less an illustration for my soul because I met the clergyman on his way home from the funeral, and he told me of the facts and said the body of the man who had been destroyed was black with electricity?

The Blessed Rest.
What is the use of going away off to get an illustration when in a house on Third Avenue, Brooklyn, I saw a woman dying, and she said, "Mr. Talmage, heaven used to be to me a great way off, but it now is just at the foot of the bed?" What is the use of your going away off to get illustrations of a victorious death when all Wales was filled with the story of the dying experience of Frances Ridley Havergal? She got her feet wet standing on the ground preaching temperance and the gospel to a group of boys and men, went home with a chill, and congestion set in, and they told her she was very dangerously sick. "I thought so," she said, "but it is really too good to be true that I am going." Doctor, do you really think I am going? "Yes." "Today?" "Probably." She said, "Beautiful, splendid, to be so near the gate of heaven." Then after a spasm of pain she nestled down in the pillows and said, "There now, it is all over—blessed rest." Then she tried to sing, and she struck one glad note, high note of praise to Christ, but could sing only one word, "He," and then all was still. She finished it in heaven.

No Need for Apologies.
It is high time that the church of God stopped writing apologies for the church. Let the men who are on the outside, who despise religion, write the apologies. If any people do not want the church, they need not have it. It is a free country. If any man does not want the gospel, he need not have it. It is a free country. But you go out, O people of God, and give the gospel to the millions of America who do want it! It is high time to stop skimming and bring on a general engagement. I want to live to see the Armageddon, all the armies of heaven and hell in battle array, for I know our conqueror on the white horse will gain the day. Let the church of God be devoted to nothing else, but go right on to this conquest.

When Moses with his army was trying to conquer the Ethiopians, profane history says, it was expected that he would go in a roundabout way and come by the banks of the river, as other armies had done, because the straight route was infested with snakes, and no army and no man had dared to go across this serpent infested region. But Moses surprised them. He sent his men out to gather up ibises. The ibis is a bird celebrated for serpent slaying, and these ibises were gathered into crates and into baskets, and they were carried at the head of the army of Moses, and, coming up to the serpent infested region, the crates were opened, and the ibises flew forth, and the way was cleared, and the army of Moses marched right on and came so unexpectedly on the Ethiopians that they flew in wild dismay. O church of God, you are not to march in a roundabout way, but to go straight forward, depending upon winged influences to clear the way. Hosts of the living God, march on, march on! Church attendance, large now, is going to be larger yet. The sky is brightening in every direction. I am glad for the boy and girl five years old. I think they may see the millennium. The wheel of Christian progress has never made one revolution backward. The world moves, the kingdom advances. All nations will yet salute the standards of Prince Immanuel. To him be glory in the church throughout all ages! Amen.

"What is the name of that book that shows the social standing of the aristocratic families?" inquired the seeker after knowledge. "Bradstreet's," promptly replied the man who knew.

DAIRY AND POULTRY.

INTERESTING CHAPTERS FOR OUR RURAL READERS.

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

Testing an Air-Draft Churn.
Every once in awhile a new company is formed to manufacture air-draft churns, otherwise known as "cyclone" churns. Probably the manufacturers are honest and believe they have a good thing, having been led to that position by the glib-tongued owner of the patent. At the Missouri Agricultural college recently a churn of this variety was tested. C. L. Wiloughby, instructor in dairying at the college thus tells of the test:

The machine contains a horizontal revolving dash, operated by large crank wheel and chain gearing. On the under side of dash are air tubes connected with an upright hollow pipe, from which air is forced through the cream by means of the centrifugal force generated from the high speed of the dash. It happened to be the regular churning day at the college, and the agent was given a couple of gallons of cream ready for churning, while the remainder of the large churning was put into a combined churn and worker, operated by hand power. The amount of cream put into the air-draft machine was exactly 15 lbs., 10 oz., testing 24 per cent fat, with an acidity by the Mann's test of .65 of one per cent, and temperature at start of 56 deg. The cream was therefore in almost ideal condition for producing good butter in the shortest time possible considering quality.

Both churns were started at the same time, and worked with a will. The minutes lengthened from 5 to 10, and then from 15 to 20, with the air-draft Separator still foaming wildly without producing butter. At the end of 26 minutes the combined churn was stopped, with butter granules the size of wheat grains. At the end of 32 minutes the Air-draft churn produced granules the size of mustard seed. Toward the close of the work it seemed to run very hard, and the air bubbles from the intake pipe were very slow and few, owing to the thickness of the cream. Temperature of buttermilk at time granules formed was 63 deg. in the combined churn, and 65 deg. in the Air-draft churn. On testing the buttermilk from both sources, it was found the Combined churn lost .30 of 1 per cent fat, while the first sample from the Air-draft churn showed a loss of .45 of 1 per cent and the second sample a loss of .65 of 1 per cent or an average of .55 of 1 per cent which is entirely too heavy a loss for close economy in large enterprises.

The arrangement of air pipes does without doubt force air through the cream, especially at the start, but it is not at all certain that this aids in the churning. This might help to take out bad odors if the cream contained such. But the revolving dash in the center of a stationary vessel fails to agitate all parts alike, and requires a longer time than a box or barrel churn, as shown by the above test.

The machine does not meet the true scientific requirements of the best churning apparatus, and is exorbitant in price compared with small size barrel churns, and cannot be recommended to the farmer. While it is no doubt true as claimed by the inventor, that butter can be churned in this machine in from one to five minutes, this fact is no less true of any ordinary box or barrel churn under the same conditions. By raising the temperature of the cream high enough, butter may be produced in this short time by almost any churn. But what kind of butter results, when using temperatures of 75 deg. or even 80 and 90 deg.? Any one who knows the elements of dairying is acquainted with the fact that such high temperatures will produce butter of poor quality, soft and salty, weak bodied and without proper grain. This one mistake of too high temperature is one of the greatest causes to-day of poor quality in butter made on the farm.

It should be noted that the advertising matter of this so-called Air-draft Separator fails to make any statement about the churning temperature, when reciting tests where butter granules broke in 1 to 5 minutes.

Honey Extracted.
Before the Ontario Beekeepers' Association recently the production of extracted honey was discussed by Alex. Dickson of Lancaster, who said in part:
There are two grades of extracted honey; good and bad. The latter is obtained by taking it from the bees too soon, while it is yet thin and unripe. To secure a good supply of the former, proceed as follows: Previous to the 1st of June see that your colonies are in good shape; supplied with young queens the fall before. June has now arrived. Watch close if the bees are beginning to whiten their combs.

If so put on the upper combs at once, with perforated metal between upper and lower set. Here is the secret of good honey and no loss of time with the bees. (If bees have wintered well, the writer finds that some need a super by May 15.) The first story being filled, raise it up and put another between the lower and the one you have just raised. * * * While the bees are capping the raised story they are capping the second set. When the first set is capped from half to three-quarters it is ready to be taken off and carried to your extracting room. The above is what we call the tiering system. In the first place, there is no loss of time by the bees in capping; then you have a better crop of honey, so far as the bees can ripen it; and, further, your bees are not overcrowded. You see it is quite evident if you extract your combs before they are capped over you have a grade of honey just as the bees brought it in from the blossoms. If so, you will only sell that grade of honey to your customers once.

Mr. Dickson has a novel honey room for further ripening his honey by raising it to a higher temperature than it reaches in the hive. The roof of this room is partly of glass, and a large window faces southward so the temperature will run up to 120 degrees. The honey is placed in tanks, 16 inches deep, 8 feet long and 4 feet wide, lined with the best of tin plate. Thus a large surface is exposed to the drying influence of this warm atmosphere.

Dairy Notes.
It is an old adage that sticking to a thing eternally brings success. This is very true in the dairy. At the present time when beef is high there is an inclination with men to forsake dairying for beef raising. In some states this movement has assumed considerable proportions. Yet it is a bad policy and sure to work evil to the men that make the change. If too many rush into the beef growing it will result in an oversupply. On the other hand the supply of cows for dairying is decreased by the tactics required in beef growing and it is thus so much harder for the farmer to re-enter the dairy business. There is no surer business than dairying.

It is claimed that one-third of all the children born die before they reach three years of age, and that one of the most common causes of this mortality is poor milk, or, rather germ-laden milk. This may not be true of many foreign countries, but it probably is true of the United States, where milk is fed to about two-thirds of the children under one year of age. There is, therefore, good reason for the continuation of the agitation for good, wholesome milk.

White Holland Turkeys.
Mary L. Schaal: The White Holland turkey hen makes an excellent mother and the young turkeys mature earlier than most breeds, and that appears to be the thing desired; for what feed it takes to keep a turkey will most often fatten a pig. So the earliest maturing bird is what we want. Some complain that White Holland turkeys are not large enough. The largest turkey is not always the most desirable for market. People living in cities do not always want an extra large turkey, unless for hotel or boarding-house. The White Holland turkey also makes a better appearance dressed for the market, for they are naturally plump and do not have unsightly black pin feather marks on them, and when you once sell them, people want them again. The meat is juicy and not coarse, and being small-boned these turkeys carve to good advantage.

The White Holland turkey is docile by nature and lacks the roving disposition we find in some birds. That is a very good trait—docility; for what is worse than to be constantly running after the turkeys, knowing they are an annoyance to neighbors?

Eggs in the Orient.
In the East Indian archipelago salted ducks' eggs are an article of diet, says Pacific Rural Press. The new-laid eggs are packed for two or three weeks in a mixture of clay, brick dust and salt. They are eaten hard-boiled. It is said that in this region and in India turtle eggs are also preserved in salt. These products, while unusual, do not necessarily suggest an unpleasant article of diet. The same can hardly be said of a Chinese product which has often been described. Ducks' eggs are buried in the ground for ten or twelve months and undergo a peculiar fermentation. The hydrogen sulphide formed breaks the shell and escapes while the egg becomes hard in texture. It is said that the final product does not possess a disagreeable odor or taste. Eggs treated in this or some similar way are on sale in the Chinese quarter of San Francisco, and very likely in other American cities. A sample recently examined had the appearance of an egg covered with dark-colored clay or mud.

Sunday is the day of strength; the others are week days.
The French olive growers have to reckon more and more with the competition of the olive growers of Tunis.

Brome vs. Timothy.

An effort to determine the relative value of Brome Grass and Timothy for pasturage and hay was made last year by the North Dakota Experiment station. Though the season was not a very favorable one, much was learned regarding the drought-resisting qualities of the two grasses. The land selected was a meadow that has been in grass for several years in which the soil had become very firm and filled with a mass of roots, penetrating in the case of the Brome Grass to a great depth. After the summer rains the timothy came forward very rapidly and for September yielded 560 pounds per acre more pasture grass than did the Brome grass, but the total yield for the entire season was 856 pounds more feed per acre from the Brome grass. The experiments were under the direction of Prof. Ladd, who has thus summarized the results:

1. Brome grass produced a fair amount of pasturage in the dry year of 1900, while timothy made very little growth.
2. Animals prefer Brome pasture to timothy, as shown in their grazing for 1899, when there was an abundance of both grasses, and in 1900 we have like results.
3. There was but little difference in chemical composition between pasture grass from Brome and from timothy. The total yield per acre was much in favor of the Brome grass.
4. Brome grass made a fair crop of hay in 1900, while timothy failed.
5. Brome hay contains about twice as much protein as timothy.
6. Brome hay does not contain more fiber than the average for timothy grown in all parts of the United States.
7. Brome grass sends its roots down deeper into the soil than timothy and furnishes a great mass of roots in the first foot of soil and hence the soil may be expected to blow less when plowed.
8. Soils on which Brome grass has been grown contain more organic matter and humus than those on which timothy has been grown.
9. Brome grass is a better humus former than timothy and leaves the soil in better chemical and physical condition than does the timothy.

Soil Rot of Sweet Potatoes.—Attack is confined to the roots and tubers, giving to them the appearance of a string of beads of irregular size and shape. Remedy—Rotate crops. Treat the soil with sulphur 400 pounds to the acre, sowed broadcast, and worked in. To the sulphur may be added with advantage the same amount of kainit.
Dry Rot of Sweet Potatoes.—Attacks underground parts only, giving to them a wrinkled, pimply appearance. Interior of diseased tubers becomes dry and powdery. Remedy—Gather and burn all diseased roots at the time the crop is harvested.
Leaf Mold of Sweet Potatoes.—Leaves become sickly, brown spots appear upon their upper surfaces, and white spots upon the under surface. Remedy—Destroy all related weeds. Spray with Bordeaux mixture.

Swine News.

An epidemic prevails among swine in portions of Cuba. Nearly all the hogs in Northwest Matanzas have been carried off and a great many in Northwest Santa Clara, some herds having lost 85 per cent.
Chicago's August top on hogs for 1901 to date is 95c above the August average for the last eleven years, there being only one August higher since 1888. The top in August, 1896, was only \$3.50, while the same month of 1882 they reached \$9.30. In September, 1882, \$9.35 was paid, being the highest for any month in over thirty-five years.

Eleven markets received 430,000 hogs during the week ending August 10th, being \$9,000 less than the previous week and 68,000 more than a year ago. This year eleven markets received 15,234,000 up to August 10th, the largest combined receipts on record. The total for 1901 to that date increased 913,000, compared with a year ago, 714,000 compared with two years ago, and 1,319,000 compared with three years ago.

"One thing is true both south and north, late chicks are not very valuable. In the former locality excessive heat reduces activity and size; and in the latter early frosts and cold weather check growth at the other end of the season." So says a contemporary. But we would suggest that by feeding beef meal or meat in some form, with green cut bone, even late chicks can be given a start that will give them a good size by the time frosts become frequent. Only those that have tried it know the effect of such feeding.

It is best to keep the night and morning milkings separate; at least, warm milk should never be mixed with cold milk; it should first be cooled down to near the same temperature. Under no circumstances should any preservatives or powders be added to milk to keep it from souring. These are criminal makeshifts of dirty dairymen. Cleanliness and cold are the only preventives needed.

The man with the lawn mower often wishes that it were less.