

ASTRAY; HOW TO GET BACK.

A Sermon by Rev. T. De Witt Talnage, Delivered in Rev. Albert Barnes Church, Seventh Street and Washington Square, Last Evening.

An assembly of people assembled in the church of Rev. Albert Barnes last night to hear a sermon by Rev. T. De Witt Talnage, under the auspices of the Young Men's Christian Association. It was an occasion never to be forgotten by those who were present. It was the beginning of a series of sermons to be preached by prominent clergymen of the city, intended to reach a class of persons not always found in our churches. Rev. Albert Barnes presided, and, after the choir had sung appropriate music, read the parable of the Prodigal Son, and led in prayer.

Mr. Talnage then proceeded with a sermon of great power, announcing as his subject, 'Astrey; How to get back.' Text—Prov. 25:35—'When shall I awake? I will seek it yet again.'

After explaining the text, he said:—I will select my audience to-night. If there be here aged Christians near the gate of heaven, I do not preach to them. If there be young men here who have maintained their integrity, useful and Christian, I do not preach to them to-night. But if there be in this audience a ruined soul, a wanderer, one forlorn and discouraged and despairing, and under an awful cloud, as come here hopeless, brother, I offer you my right hand. 'Christ came to save the lost. Lord Jesus, give me one more night!' (This prayer of the preacher was marvelously answered at the close of the sermon in circumstances that would be thrilling to relate if it were wise to do so.)

The discourse was devoted to showing what were the difficulties in the way of return, and then how they may be surmounted. He mentioned the force of moral gravitation that naturally takes one down and the power of habit. Habit is a taskmaster that chastises us not while we obey it; but let us resist, and we find that we are to be lashed with scorpion whips, and bound with ship cables, and thrown in the track of tormenting judgments.

CHANGE OF LANDLORDS.



1867—"I say, old '66, if them traps on the steps are yours, I wish you would take them away with you."

After passing a few moments, the speaker with overwhelming solemnity remarked:—There is something that tells me that there is in this audience a man *astrey* who *neer get back*—Tragedy of five acts.

Act 1. Young man starting from father's house—Parents and sisters weeping—Over the hill throw him back a farewell kiss. Ring the bell and let the curtain drop.

Act 2. Marrying altar—Bright lights—Full organ—Long veil trailing through the aisle—Congratulations and tears and prayers and exclamations of how well she looked. Ring the bell and let the curtain drop.

Act 3. Midnight candle almost in the socket—Grief-worn woman waiting for the return of staggering steps—Nochrg but ashes on the hearth—old garment stuffed into the broken window pane—She is sunken and dry because all her tears are shed—Story of hardships in long files across the brow—Bring the nails of bloodless fingers—Disarray—Cruelty—Stagnation brooding over the scene. Ring the bell! Let the curtain drop.

Act 4. Three graves in a rough place—The child that died for want of medicine—Here the wife who died of grief—There the father who died of dissipation—Plenty of weeds, but no flower, no tree, no fence, no mourner—Heart desolate and blasted—The heart freezes—Let the curtain drop.

Act 5. THE GAMBLER'S FETTER—Skeleton of better days—Ornamenting the soul—Scorpions of fire—Gloom—Death-struck—Gamster's passion, but no dice to click, no bowls to rattle—No hands to keep tally—Risky eternity on one card—Lost it—All the stakes swept off—A wild ending to an awful tragedy—Blackness of darkness forever! I shut my eyes. I turn my head. I cannot endure the vision. Quick!—Ring the bell! Let the curtain drop.

HOME FOR STRANGERS.

The Downward Career of Young Men in Vice—A Plea for the Erection of a Strangers' Home. The following is a condensed report of a lecture delivered by the Rev. S. A. Matchmore, on the parable of the "Prodigal Son" (being the third of a series), at the Cockshut Presbyterian Church, Germantown avenue, above Fifth.

CURTAINS, SHADES, ETC. RICH LACE CURTAINS. Nettingham Lace Curtains, French Lace Curtains, Embroidered Mullin Curtains, Jacquard Mullin Curtains, and Curtains Mullin in great variety SHEPPARD, VAN HARTINGEN & ARRISSON

DRY GOODS. J. C. STRAWBRIDGE & CO. COTTON GOODS. THE VERY LOW PRICE OF COTTON GOODS SHOULD INDUCE CAREFUL HOUSE-KEEPERS AT ONCE TO LAY IN A STOCK.

FURNITURE, BEDDING, ETC. MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR. COULD & CO. UNION FURNITURE DEPOT, CORNER NINTH AND MARKET STREETS.

TO HOUSEKEEPERS. I have a large stock of every variety of FURNITURE. Which I will sell at reduced prices, consisting of—PLAIN AND MARBLED COFFEE TABLES, WALNUT CHAIRS, PARLOR SUITS IN VELVET PLUSH, PAPER SUITS IN HALL CLOTH, PARLOR SUITS IN REPS, Mattresses, Extension Tables, Wardrobes, Bookcases, Dressing, Lounges, etc.

GEO. A. COOKE'S COAL EMPORIUM. 1314 WASHINGTON AV. THE GENUINE EAGLE BRAND, THE CELEBRATED PRISTON and the purest hard GREY WOOD COAL.

SCATTERGOODS. 1867. THE PROPERTY OF 1866.