

# THE NEVADA PICA YUNE.

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PRESCOTT, NEVADA COUNTY, ARKANSAS JUNE 4, 1885.

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## TALMAGE.

Does the Use of Tobacco Cause Cancerous and Other Troubles?

A Sermon Denunciatory of Tobacco Smoking and Chewing, and of the Habits, Opium and Chloral Habits.

Globe-Democrat.

BROOKLYN, N. Y., May 17.—Before the sermon in the Brooklyn

Tabernacle to-day, Dr. Talmage

read from the first Book of Kings

concerning an altar upon which

men's bones were sacrificed, and

remarked that there is more sacrifice

of human life now than ever

before, although the altar may not

be admitted. Dr. Talmage's reading

of the Scripture lessons is peculiar

to himself, and excites as much

interest in the audience as the

sermon preached. The reading

is a running commentary with

practical lessons interjected. The

subject of the sermon was: "Does

the use of tobacco cause cancerous

and other troubles?" The text

was:

"Let the earth bring forth grass

and herb yielding seed." Gen. 1.

2.

Dr. Talmage said: The first

born of earth were the grass blade

and the herb. They preceded the

brute creation and the human family—the

grass for animal life, the herb for

human service. The cattle took

possession of its inheritance, the

herb. This herb we have for

food in case of hunger, for narcotic

in case of insomnia, for anodyne

under paroxysm of pain, or for

stimulus when the pulses flag under

the weight of disease. The caterer

takes the herb and serves it up in

all its delicacies. The physician

takes the herb and compounds it

for physical recuperation. Millions

of the human race take it for

ruinous delectation of body and

mind. The herb divinely created

and for good purposes, in cases

without number prostituted for

evil results. There is a lawful and

unlawful use of the herbaceous

kingdom.

There sprang up in Yucatan, on

this continent, an herb which has

bewitched the world. It crossed

the Atlantic Ocean in the fifteenth

century, and captured Spain. Then

captured Portugal, and then the

French Embassadors took it to

Paris, and it captured the French

Empire. Then Walter Raleigh introduced

it into England. The botanists

ascribe it to the genius

Nicotina; but you all know it

as the inspiring, the elevating, the

emparadising, the radiating, the

nerve-shattering, the dyspepsia-

breeding, the health-destroying

tobacco. I shall not be offensively

personal when I speak on this

subject, because you all use it, or

nearly all. Indeed I know from

personal experience how it soothes

and roses the world and kindles

society, and I know what are its

beneficial results. I know what it

is to be its slave, and thank God,

I know what it is to be its conqueror.

I have no expectation

that I will persuade the great

masses of you to change your

habits upon this subject, but I thought

I might help you in some advice

to your children.

You say: "Didn't God make tobacco?"

Oh, yes, you say, "Isn't God good?"

Oh, yes, you say, "Then God, when he created tobacco

must have created it for some good purpose."

Oh, yes, it is good for a great many things,

tobacco is. It is good to kill moths in the

wardrobe and tick in the sheep, and to

strangle all kinds of vermin, and to fumigate

pestiferous places, and like all other

poisons, God created it for some particular

use. So he did henbane, so nux vomica, so

copperas, so belladonna, so all these poisons

which he directly created or had man to

extract. But the same God who made the

poisons also created us with common sense

to know how to use them and how not to

use them. "Oh," said one of my friends,

"don't people use it without seeming harm

to themselves, and are there not cases of

plethora which absolutely need this

depletion?" Oh, yes, skillful and prudent

physicians have sometimes

prescribed it, just as they sometimes

prescribe arsenic, and they prescribe it well.

There can be no doubt about it being poisonous.

There was a case reported in which

a little child lay upon its mother's lap,

and a drop from her pipe fell on the

child's lip and it went into convulsions

and into death. "But," you say, "don't

people live to an old age who indulge in this

habit?" Yes; I have seen an inebriate 70

years old. There are some persons, who,

in spite of all the outrages to their physical

system, live on to old age. In the case of

the man of the jug, he lasted so long

because he was pickled! In the case of the

man of the pipe, he lasted so long because

he was turned into smoked liver!

But, my friends, what advice

had we better give to our young people?

Say in the first place let us advise

them to abstain from this habit because

all the medical fraternity of the United

States and Great Britain pronounce it

the cause of widespread and terrific

unhealth. Dr. Agnew, Dr. Hamilton, Dr.

Olson, Dr. Barnes, Dr. Woodford, Dr.

Rush, Dr. Hosack, Dr. Harvey, Dr. Mott—

all the medical fraternity, homeopathic,

allopathic, hydropathic, eclectic—denounce

the habit and warn the community

against. One distinguished physician says:

"This habit is the cause of seventy different

styles of disease; this habit is the cause

of nearly all the cases of cancer of the

mouth." What is testimony of the late

Dr. C. Warren, of Boston, than whom

there is no higher authority? He says:

"For more than thirty years I have been

in the habit of inquiring of patients

who came to me with cancer of the tongue

and lips whether they used tobacco, and

if so, whether they chewed or smoked, and

if they have sometimes answered in the

negative as to the first question, I can

truly say that to the best of my knowledge

and belief, such cases are exceptions to

the general rule. When, as is usually

the case, one side of the tongue is

affected with ulcerated cancer it arises

from the habitual retention of the tobacco

in contact with this part." Their united

testimony is that it depresses the

vitals of the system and brings on

nervousness and dyspepsia and takes off

25 per cent of the physical vigor of the

people of this country, and damaging

this generation, damaging the next, the

accumulated curse going on to capture

other centuries.

It injures the mind. Another

eminent physician, for a long while

superintendent of the insane asylum at

Northampton, Mass., says: "Fully half

the patients who have come to our asylum

for treatment are victims of tobacco." It

is a sad thing, my brother, to damage

the body; it is a worse thing to damage

the age and mind, and any man of

common sense knows that the nervous

system immediately acts upon the

brain. More than that, nearly all

reformers will tell you that it tends to

drunkenness; it creates unnatural

thirst. There are those who use this

narcotic who do not drink, but nearly

all who drink use the narcotic; so that

shows there is an immediate affinity

between the two drugs. It was long

ago demonstrated that a man cannot

permanently reform from strong drink

unless he gives up tobacco. In nearly

all the cases where men, having been

reformed, have fallen back, it has been

shown they have first touched tobacco,

and then surrendered to intemperance.

The broad avenue leading down to the

drunkard's grave and the drunkard's

hell is strewn thick with tobacco

leaves. What did Benjamin Franklin say?