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A SERMON ON BABYLON.

25, BY DR. TALMAGE.

sons That Should Be Heeded to He Drawn from Its Fall.

BROOKLYN, Jan. 25. - Dr. Talmage preached the following sermon this morning in the Academy of Music in this city and he repeated it to-night at The Chris-tian Herald service in the New York Academy of Music. His text was Daniel v, 30 "In that night was Belshazzar, the king of the Chaldeans, slain.

After the site of Babylon had been se lected, two million of men were employed for the construction of the wall and principal works. The walls of the city were sixty miles in circumference. They were surrounded by a trench, out of which had been dug the material for the construction of the city. There were twenty-five gates of solid brass on each side of the square city. Between every two gates a great tower sprang up into the heavens. From each of the twenty-five gates on either side a street ran straight through to the gate on the other side, so that there were fifty streets, each fifteen miles long, which gave to the city an appearance of wonderful

regularity. The houses did not join each other on the ground, and between them were gardens and shrubbery. From housetop to house top bridges swung, over which the inhab-Itants were accustomed to pass. A branch of the Euphrates went through the city, over which a bridge of marvelous structure was thrown, and under which a tunnel ran. To keep the river from overflowing the city in time of freshet, a great lake was arranged to catch the surplus, in which the water was kept as in a reservoir until times of drought, when it was sent streaming down over the thirsty land. A palace stood at each end of the Euphrates bridge: one palace a mile and three-quarters in oass, and the other palace seven and a half miles in circumference. The wife of Nebuchadnezzar, having been brought up among the mountains of Media, could not stand it in this flat country of Babylon, and so to please her Nebuchadnezzar had a countain four hundred feet high built in the midst of the city.

This mountain was surrounded by terraces, for the support of which great arches were lifted. On the top of these arches flat stones were laid; then a layer of reeds and bitumen; then two rows of bricks, closely cemented; then thick sheets of lead, upon which the soil was placed. The earth here clouds were all in blossom, and the very sky leaned on the shoulder of the cedar. At the top an engine was constructed den of the skies. All this to please his wife! I think she must have been pleased. THE TEMPLE OF BELLIS.

one-eighth of a mile high, and on the top of it an observatory, which gave the as the stars. This temple was full of cups and statues and censers, all of gold. One image weighed a thousand Babylenish talents, which would be equal to fifty two million dollars. All this by day; but now night was about to come down on Habylon. The streets and squares were lighted for dance and frolic and promenade. The theatres and galleries of art invited the wealth and pomp and grandeur of the gity to rare entertainments. Scenes of riot and wassail were mingled in every street; godless mirth, and outrageous excess, and splendid wickedness came to the king's palace to do their mightiest deeds

of darkness.

A royal feast to night at the king's pal ace! Rushing up to the gates are chariots, aphoistered with precious cloths from De-dan and drawn by fire eyed horses from Pogarmah, that rear and neigh in the grasp of the charioteers, while a thousand lords dismount, and women dressed in all the splendors of Syrian emerald, and the milor blending of agate, and the chasteness of coral, and the somber glory of Tyrian purple, and the princely embroideries brought from afar by camels across the desert, and by ships from Tarshish across quet

LET THE QUESTS COME IN. Open wide the gates and let the greats some in. The chamberlains and cup bear-ers are all ready. Hark to the rustle of the robes, and to the carol of the musici See the blaze of the jewels! Lift the banwith song and dance and ovation; and let that Babylonish tongue be palsied that will not say, "Oh, King Belshazzar, live

Ah! my friends, it was not any common banquet to which these great people came. All parts of the earth had sent their richest viands to that table. Brackets and chandeliers flashed their light upon tankwith leaves, plucked from royal conservain the chalices. Tufts of cassia and frankintense wafting their aweetness from wail and
table. Gorgeous banners unfolding in the
breeze that came through the opened window, bewitched with the perfume of ing gardens. Fountains rising up from inclosures of ivory in jets of crystal, to fall rupt novels. "They are so charming," in clattering rain of diamonds and pearls. says be, "I will go out and see for myself Statues of mighty men looking down from whether all these things are so." He opens niches in the wall upon crowns and shields product in the wait upon crowns and shields the gate of a shifter life. He goes in A product from subduct empires. Isola of wonderful work, standing on pedestals of She waves her wand, and it is all enchant procious stones. Embroideries drooping pillars about the windows and wrapping pillars of cedar, and drifting on floor iniaid with the atmosphere. As he walks on he finds two and again. Music, mingling the three methods and the clash of pour and the contract of the first securing more radiant with foil the man of here and the clash of accounts.

DISCOURSE PREACHED SUNDAY, JAN. emptied. Away with care from the palace! hall!" He tries to get out. He comes to A Graphic Description of the Wonders lord, captain ogles to captain. Goblets be hears these words, "This night is Below of this Ancient Pagan City—Some Lessiash, decanters rattle. There comes in shazzar, the king of the Chaideans, slain." the vile song, and the drunken hiccough. Sin may open bright as and the slavering lip, and the guffaw of ends dark as the night!

for great Belsbazzar!" THE HANDWRITING ON THE WALL. it God? Out of the black sleeve of the darkness a finger of fiery terror trembles through the air and comes to the wall, circling about as though it would write, and then, with sharp tip of flame, en-

and found wanting. Meanwhile the Assyrians, who for two Meanwhile the Assyrians, who for two
years had been laying siege to that city,
took advantage of that carousal and came
took advantage of that carousal and came
trees are moved in a whirlwind. Some in. I hear the feet of the conquerors on the palace stairs. Massacre rushes in with upon the scene, and I shut the door of that banqueting hall, for I do not want to mother stand by and see the tides of his a thousand gleaming knives. Death bursts look. There is nothing there but torn banners, and broken wreaths, and the slush of upset tankards, and the blood of murdered women, and the kicked and tumbled carcass of a dead king. For "in that night was Belahazzar, the king of the Chaldeans,

READ IT AS IT IS. I go on to learn that when God writes anything on the wall, a man had better read it as it is. Daniel did not misinterpret or modify the handwriting on the wall. It is all foolishness to expect a minthat the people like or the people choose. Young men, what shall I preach to you towonders that our race has accomplished?

preached. He said to those who did wrong and who were offensive in his sight, "Ye sit at that table came the yeomanry of generation of vipers! ye whited sepulchers! New Hampshire, and the lumberman of how can ye escape the damnation of heil!" Maine, and the Carolinian from the rice how can ye escape the damnation of hell!" deposited was so deep that the largest trees had room to anchor their roots. All the glory of the flowery tropics was spread out at that tremendous height, until it must that tremendous height, until it must still the control of th at that tremendous beight, until it must at that tremendous beight, until it must a consider the seemed to one below as though the a very noble man?" No; he preached of a very noble man?" No; he preached of righteousness to a man who was unright cous; of temperance to a man who was the burg, South Mountain? What meant those At the top an engine was constructed which drew the water from the Euphrates, far below, and made it spout up amid this we must always declare the message that happens to come to us. Daniel must read | the heavy supply train? Why the It is it is. A minister preached before of tears—those lakes of blood? God was James I of England, who was James VI angry! Justice must come. A handwrit In the midst of this city stood also the of Scotland. What subject did be take? ing on the wall! The nation had been temple of Belus. One of its towers was The king was noted all over the world for weighed and found wanting. Darkness! being unsettled and wavering in his ideas. Darkness! Woe to the north! Woe to the What did the minister preach about to tronomers great advantage, as, being at so this man who was James I of England Death at the banquet! great a height, one could easily talk with and James VI of Scotland? He took for I have also to learn from the subject that his text James I, 6: "He that wavereth is the destruction of the vicious, and of those like a wave of the sea, driven with the who despise God, will be very sudden. The wind and tossed.

sermon he preached, and the king said, through. It was unexpected. Suddenly, "Hugh Latimer, come and spologiza." almost always, comes the doom of those The shadows of her two hundred and fifty "I will," said Hugh Latimer. So the day who despise God and defy the laws of towers began to lengthen. The Euphrates rolled on, touched by the flery spleudors of the setting sun, and gates of brass, bur men and women of the country for black nished and glittering, opened and shut like doors of flame. The hanging gardens of Babylon, wet with the heavy dew, began is pour from stariit flowers and dripping leaf a fragrance for many miles around.

Here and wemen of the country, for Hugh storm, so that people for many schole with the waters that calmines brood a book is alluring, suggesting all sorts of a book is alluring, suggesting all sorts of thine earthly king, who can destroy thy bedy. But bethink thee, Hugh Latimer, beavens burst, and the mountains sank flied. Mankind does not learn by veperting the same of the country, for Hugh sure it was coming? No; I suppose the waits to know something about the wares morning was bright, that calmines brood a book is alluring, suggesting all sorts of those and the mountains sank flied. Mankind does not learn by veperting the same in the present of the same that dashed carries are the same of the country, for Hugh sure it was coming? No; I suppose the waits to know something about the wares that the heavy dew, began to pure the same of the country, for Hugh sure it was coming? No; I suppose the waits to know something about the wares think these of the waters, that beauty sat en through the heavy dew, began the properties of the waters are in the present of the waters are the waters and the mountains the present of the waters are the waters. that thou art in the presence of the King like anchors into the sea that dashed clear of heaven and earth, who can destroy both body and soul in hell fire." Then he preached with appalling directness at the

THE BEGINNING AND THE END CONTRASTED. Another leason that comes to us. There is a great difference between the opening of the banquet of sin and its close. Young man, if you had looked in upon the ban quet in the first few bours, you would have wished you had been invited there, and could sit at the feast. "Oh! the grandeur of Belshazzar's feast!" you would have said; but you look in at the close of the banquet, and your blood curdles with wine, and dying grouns are the music. Sin has made itself a king in the earth. It has crowned itself. It has spread a ban-It invites all the world to come to it. It has hung in its banqueting hall the spo.is of all kingdoms and the banners of all sations. It has gattered from all muate. It has strewn, from its wealth, the tab es and the floors and arches. And yet how often is that banquet broken up, and how horrible is its cut! Ever and anon there is a handwriting on the wall. A ners. Fill the cups. Clap the cymtals. the w is a handwriting on the wall. A Blow the trumpets. Let the night go by The knees of wickedness knock together. God's judgment, like an armed hoss, breaks in upon the banquet; and that night is He shazzar, the king of the Chaideans,

Here is a young man who says: "I can the intextesting cap. Why, it is exhibentrage It makes me food well. I can talk ards of burnished gold. Fruits, ripe and better, think better, feel better. I cannot better, in baskets of silver, entwinest with leaves, plucked from royal conserved against it." A few years pass on, and he Vases, iniaid with emerald and wakes up and finds himself in the cintches ridged with exquisite traceries, filled with of an evil habit which he tries to break, nuts that were thrashed from forests of but cannot, and he cross out, 'Oh, Lord distant lands. Wine brought from the royal God, help me?" It seems as though God

Here is a man who begins to read corthe gate of a sinful life. He goes in. A ivery and again. Music, mingling the thrum of harm, and the clash of cymbals, and the ravines more resonant with age and the ravines more resonant with the falling water. Oh! what a charming the part that went rippling along the wall, and breathing among the gariands, and pouring down the corridors, and thrilling the souls of a thousand banqueters.

The aggual is given, and the lords and ladies, the mighty men and women of the lands of the lords and ladies, the mighty men and women of the lands of the lords and ladies, the mighty men and women of the lands of the lords and ladies, the mighty men and women of the lands of the lords and ladies, the mighty men and women of the lands of the lords and ladies, the mighty men and women of the lands of the lords and ladies, the mighty men and women of the lands of the lords and ladies, the mighty men and women of the lands of the lords and ladies, the mighty men and women of the lands of the lords and ladies, the mighty men and women of the lands of the lords and ladies, the mighty men and women of the lords and ladies, the mighty men and women of the lords and ladies, the mighty men and women of the lords and ladies, the mighty men and women of the lords and ladies, the mighty men and women of the lords and ladies, the mighty men and women of the lords and ladies, the mighty men and women of the lords and ladies, the mighty men and women of the lords and ladies, the mighty men and women of the lords and ladies, the mighty men and women of the lords and ladies, the might have rearred the call of the gospel for many a year, I invite him now to come and be strong how in the call of the gospel for many a year, I invite him now to come and be strong how in the call of the gospel for many a year, I invite him now to come and be strong how in the call of the gospel for many a year, I invite him now to come and be the form of the farmance.

Bridge Swinging Metalles, which is no loss than charming heard the call of the gospel for many a year, I invite him now to come and be th

sentiment, "Oh, King Belshazzar, live for- come curses and screams of demoniac of royal beauty gleam to the uplifted chai- and feel for his heart, and beckon him on ices, as again and again and again they are with "Hail, brother! Hail, blasted spirit, Tear royal dignity to tatters! Pour out the front door where he entered, and tries more wine! Give us more light, wilder to push it back, but the door turns against music, sweeter perfume! Lord shouts to him, and in the jar of that shutting door

I learn further from this subject that idiotic laughter, bursting from the lips of princes, flushed, reeling, bloodshot; while Death sometimes breaks in upon a banquet. mingling with it all I hear, "Huzza! huzza! Why did he not go down to the prisons in Babylon? There were people there that would like to have died. I suppose there were men and women in torture in that And let him that hath no money come, What is that on the plastering of the wall? Is it aspirit? Is it a phantom? Is city who would have welconed Death. But he comes to the palace; and just at the without price." "Come unto me, all ye time when the mirth is dashing to the tip. who are weary and heavy laden, and I will top pitch Death breaks in at the banquet. give you rest." Oh! that my Lord Jesus We have often seen the same thing illus- would now make himself so attractive to trated. Here is a young man just come graves on the plastering the doom of the from college. He is kind. He is loving. king. The music stops. The gobiet faits He is enthusiastic. He is eloquent. By one spring he may bound to heights knelt down at your mother's knee, then from the nerveless grasp. There is a thrill. one spring he may bound to height.

There is a start. There is a thousand toward which many men have been string. There is a start. There is a thousand gling for years. A profession opens before voiced shrick of horror. Let Daniel be becaught in to read that writing. He comes him. He is established in the law. His brought in to read that writing. He comes in. He reads it, "Weighed in the balance friends cheer him. Eminent men encour

After a while you may see him standing night he retires early. A fever is on him. Delirium, like a reckless charioteer, seizes life going out to the great ocean. The banquet is coming to an end. The lights of thought and mirth and eloquence are being extinguished. The garlands are snatched from the brow. The vision is gone. Death at the banquet!

DEATH AT THE BANQUET. We saw the same thing on a larger scale illustrated at the last war in this country. Our whole nation had been sitting at a national banquet-north, south, east and west. What grain was there but we grew It on our hills. What invention was there ister of the Gospel to preach always things but our rivers must turn the new wheel and rattle the strange shuttle. What warm furs but our traders must bring them night? Shall I tell you of the dignity of from the Arctic. What fish but our nets human nature? Shall I tell you of the must sweep them for the markets. What music but it must sing in our halis. What "Oh, no!" you say: "tell me the message eloquence but it must speak in our sen-that came from God." I will. If there is ates. Ho! to the national banquet, reach any handwriting on the wall it is this les- ing from mountain to mountain, and from son, "Accept of Christ and be saved!" I sea to sea! To prepare that banquet the might talk of a great many other things, sheepfolds and the aviaries of the country but that is the message, and so I declare it. sent their best treasures. The orchards Jesus never flattered those to whom he piled up on the table their sweetest fruits. The presses burst out with new wines. To fields, and the western emigrant from the pines of Oregon, and we were all brothers -brothers at a banquet. Suddenly the feast ended.

What meant those mounds thrown up at Chickamanga, Shiloh, Atlanta, Gettyssouth! Woe to the east! Woe to the west!

wave of mirth had dashed to the highest Hugh Latimer offended the king by a point when that Assyrian army broke over the Andes and the Himalayas. OVERWHELMED IN THE WATERS.

The Red sea was divided. The Egyptians tried to cross it. There could be no danger. The Israelites had just gone through. Where they had gone, why not the Egyp tigns. Oh! it was such a beautiful wasking place! A pavement of tinged shells and pearls, and on either side two great walls of water solid. There can be no danger. Forward, great hosts of the Egyptians! Clap the cymbals, and blow the trumpets of victory! After them! We will catch them yet, and they shall be destroyed. But Olive," "The Queen of the Air," "Fors the walls begin to tremble. They rock! horror. The King of Terrors has there a They fall: The rushing waters! The shrick ghastiler banquet; human blood is the of drowning men! The swimming of the war horses in vain for the sheet strewing of the great host on the bottom of the sea, or pitched by the angry wave on the beach a bittered, bruised and loath some wreck! Suddenly destruction came. One-half hour before they could not have believed it. Destroyed, and without

I am just setting forth a fact, which you have noticed as well as I. Ananias comes to the apostic. The apostic says, "Did you sell the land for so much?" He says, "Yes." It was a lie. Dead) as quick as that! Sapphire, his wife, comes in. "Did you sell the land for so much?" "Yes." It was a lie; and quick as that she was dead. God's judgments are upon those who despise him and defy him. They come sud-

The destroying angel went through Egypt. Do you suppose that any of the people knew that he was coming? Did they hear the flap of his great wing? Not not Buddenly, unexpectedly, he came. Skilled sportsmen do not like to shoot a hird standing on a sprig near by. If they are aktiled they pride themselves on taking it on the wing, and they wait till it starts. Death is an old sportsman, and he loves to take men flying under the very sun. He loves to take them on the wing. A WORD TO THE UNCONVERTED.

Are there any here who are nuprepared for the eternal world? Are there any here who have been living without God and without hope? Let me say to you that you had better accept of the Lord Jesus Christ, lest suddenly your last chance be gone. The lungs will cease to breathe, the heart will stop. The time will come when you shall go no more to the office, or store, or to the shop. Nothing will be left but Death and Judgment and Eternity. Oh! flee to God this hour! If there be one in this presence who has wandered far away from Christ, though he may not have beard the call of the gospel for many a

something, thou knowest not ever!" Bestarred headband and carcanet laughter. Lost spirits gather about him what, and there be shadows floating in the room, and a handwriting on the wall, and you feel that your last hour is come, and there be a fainting at the heart, and a tremor in the limb, and a catching of the breath-then thy doom would be but an echo of the words of the text, "In that night was Belshazzar, the king of the Chaldeans, slain."

THE GOSPEL INVITATION. Hear the invitation of the Gospell There may be some one in this house to whom I shall never speak again, and therefore let it be in the words of the Gospel, and not in my own, with which I close: one that thirsteth! Come ye to the waters your souls that you cannot resist him; and that, if you have never prayed before, or have not prayed since those days when you that to-night you might pray, saying:

Just as I am, without one plea. But that thy blood was shed for me, And that thou hid at me come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come!

But if you cannot think of so long a prayer as that, I will give you a shorter prayer that you can say, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner!" Or, if you cannot think of so long a prayer as that, I will give you a still shorter one that you may utter, "Lord, save me, or I perish!" Or if that be too long a prayer, you need not utter one word. Just look and live!

How to Regard the Past.

In the "good old times" men lived under the horrid shadows of frightful super-Now it is to modern science only that we owe our emancipation from the yoke of this awful tyranny. Scientific exdorers have been over the earth and, findng no mouth of hell, that is gone. Science has explained earthquakes and volcanoes, and now devils fight no longer in the bow els of the earth. Ætua and Vesuvius are no longer ventholes of the pit. Astronomy has shattered the follies of astrology, and people have found out that the stars are minding their own business instead of meddling with theirs, and eclipses, no longer moon swallowing monsters, are only very natural and well beliaved shad-

Since psychology is studied we know that witcheraft is folly, and insanity is only a disease to be treated and cured. Thus science, like a mother going up stairs to bed with her frightened boy, has been with her candle into all the old dark corners that used to make us creep and cringe and shiver with terror. Croakers always have had a special faculty for seeing "breakers ahead" and smooth water behind. But the sober facts of history justify the statement that never was the ship of human hope in stancher trim, and never was a fairer, broader sea ahead.

What then? Why, this: In spite of present ills and difficulties and corruptions and discouragements, learn to see things fastened upon us! As if an evil that has nable as one sprung up today! We ought indeed in church, society and state to reverence the past as father of the present, but not so blindly as to keep errors and fallacious systems simply because our ancestors endured them.-Minot J. Savage in

Misleading Book Titles. A paper has been read before the Library association on the misleading titles of modern books. The subject is one in which the book buying public is necessarily interested. There are many, even in these shrewd and careful times, who purchase volumes on the strength of advertisements, or after a casual glance at the names of a book and its author. The wiser mind waits to know something about the wares ence, either personally or by deputy.

With the old standing example before them of the ingenuous countryman who bought Ruskin's work "On the Construction of Sheepfolds" under the impression that it was an agricultural treatise, men and women still rush upon their fate in the matter of book titles. And they are meanwhile fooled to the top of their bent. The title we have just quoted is, as everybody knows, by no means Ruskin's only achievement in the direction of misleading or at least mystifying the public. "Sesame and Lilies," "The Crown of Wild Clavinera"—these, and others in their time, have created quite as much confu-sion in the minds of the simple and con-

And, footified by so illustrious an example, the book producers go on mystifying and misleading, outdoing each other in the perverted ingenuity of their inven-

This is the season for wet feet-I mean men's feet. Women, as a rule, wear rubber

Shoes Made of Porpoise Hide.

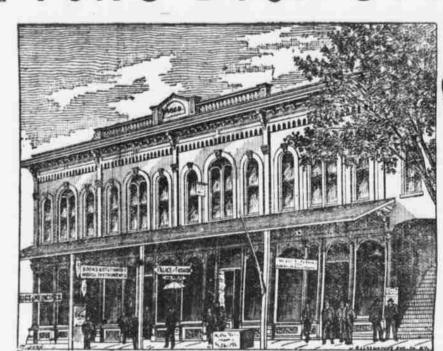
overshoes, but few men will undergo the trouble india rubbers or arctics are sure to indict. A shoomaker the other day put me up to a wrinkle that is worth trying. Every one knows about perpoise hide shoe strings, how durable they are, and all that. This same shoemaker showed me a pair of shoes made of the same material, and told me that they were virtually waterproof on account of the perpose hide retaining so much oil. The shoes were fashionably out and handsomely made. They do not pulish well, that look neat, and once the feet are snugly incased in them, slush and snow are held at defiance. The cost is a little more than the ordinary callskin, but they will outlast two pairs of the latter. - Philadelphia Times.

A Great Electric Railroad. M. Barosa, the Hungarian minister of mmerce, is not satisfied with the renown which the introduction of the sone tariff has gained for him, but is coming forward with another plan by which he proposes to give us the fastest trains in the world. This plan is for an electric railway, for passengers only, between Vienns and Buda-Pesth. The distance of 156 miles would be achieved in two boars and a half. Que rariway carriage would start every ten minutes between 6 in the morning and midnight. The only difficulty is the capital required for the execution of the project, which is no loss than 18,000 (no floring. The fare from Visuna to Pesth would be 10 floring.—Visuna Cor. London News.

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