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BRILLIANT RELIGION.

SERMON DELIVERED BY DR. TAL-MAGE ON SUNDAY, APRIL 19.

"The Crystal Cannot Equal It"-Job mavili, 7, the Envinent Divine's Text. Religion Is Far Superior to the Crystal In All Desirable Qualities.

NEW YORK, April 19.-The eagerness to hear Dr. Talmage's sermons at The Chris- Polycarp, who, when standing in the midst tian Herald services on Sunday evenings of the amphitheater waiting for the lions to come out of their cave and destroy him. in this city continues unabated. As usual, there was this evening a dense mass of people waiting outside .the Academy of Music long before the hour for commencement, and every seat in the huge building was occupied in a few minutes after the doors were opened. Dr. Talmage had you in glorious company; and while there preached to an immense audience in the are many things that you will have to morning in the Brooklyn Academy of postpone to the future world for explana-Music. His text was, "The crystal can tion, I tell you that it is the whole tendency not equal it" (Job xxviii, 7).

Many of the precious stones of the Bible and interpret and illumine and irradiate. have come to prompt recognition. But for the present I take up the less valuable ency. "The crystal cannot equal it." crystal. Job, in my text, compares saving wisdom with a specimen of topaz. An in-fidel chemist or mineralogist would pronounce the latter worth more than the former, but Job makes an intelligent comers of hoar frost and corals and wreaths and stars and crowns and castellations of parison, looks at religion and then looks as of superior value to the latter, exclaim-ing, in the words of my text, "The crystal cannot equal it."

beautiful, and that is the religion of the THE STAR OF THE MOUNTAIN. Bible. No wonder this Bible represents that religion as the daybreak, as the apple blossoms, as the glitter of a king's ban-Now, it is not a part of my sermonic de-sign to depreciate the crystal, whether it be found in Cornish mine or Hartz moun tain or Mammoth Cave or tinkling among the pendants of the chandellers of a palace. quet. It is the joy of the whole earth. TOO MUCH TALK OF THE CROSS. People talk too much about their cross The crystal is the star of the mountain; it is the queen of the cave; it is the eardrop you know the Bible mentions a cross but of the hills; it finds its heaven in the diamond. Among all the pages of natural twenty-seven times, while it mentions a history there is no page more interesting to me than the page crystallographic. But i want to show you that Job was right when, taking religion in one hand and the esthetic taste. He has seen the surrises of HEAVEN WE MUST HAVE. erystal in the other, he declared that the a half century. He has been an early riser. former is of far more value and beauty He has been an admirer of cameos and than the latter, recommending it to all the corals and all kinds of beautiful things. people and to all the ages, declaring, "The Ask him what he thinks of religion, and he caystal cannot equal it." will tell you, "It is the most beautiful In the first place, I remark that religion thing I ever saw." "The crystal cannot

is superior to the crystal in exactness, equal it." That shapeless mass of crystal against which you accidentally dashed your foot is laid out with more exactness than any ball out with more exactness than any Beautiful in its symmetry. When it earthly city. There are six styles of crys- tuberance on one side of his nature, but tallization, and all of them divinely or- makes that love in harmony with his dained. Every crystal has mathematical justice - a love that will accept all precision. God's geometry reaches through | those who come to him, and a justice that it, and it is a square, or it is a rectangle, or it is a rhomboid, or in some way it hath a mathematical figure. Now, religion beats that in the simple fact that spiritual accu-racy is more beautiful than material accu-racy. God's attributes are exact. God's law exact. God's decrees exact. God's it is a lily. Paul says it is a crown. The management of the world exact—never counting wrong, though he counts the grass blades, and the stars, and the sands, and the cycles. His providences never dealing with us perpendicularly when topaz, and the sapphire, and the chryst those providences ought to be oblique, nor lateral when they ought to be vertical. prasus-and he takes out of this beautiful Everything in our life arranged without vase just one crystal, and holds it up until any possibility of mistake. Each life a it gleams in the warm light of the eastern six sided prism. Born at the right time; sky, and he exclaims, "The crystal cannot dying at the right time. There are no "hap- equal it." pen so's" in our theology. If I thought this was a slipshod universe I would go crazy. Oh, it is not a stale religion, it is not a stupid religion, it is not a toothless hag, God is not an anarchist. Law, order, sym as some seem to have represented it; it is metry, precision, a perfect square, a perfect not a Meg Merriles with shriveled arm rectangle, a perfect rhomboid, a perfect cir- come to scare the world. It is the fairest daughter of God, heiress of all his wealth. cle. The edge of God's robe of government never frays out. There are no loose screws Her cheek the morning sky; her voice the music of the south wind; her step the dance of the sea. Come and woo her. The happen that Napoleon was attacked with indigestion at Borodino so that he became incompetent for the day. It did not just ever will, let him come. Do you agree with Solomon and say it is a lily? Then pluck happen that John Thomas, the missionary, on a heathen island, waiting for an outfit it and wear it over your heart. Do you agree with Paul and say it is a crown? and orders for another missionary tour, received that outfit and those orders in a Then let this hour be your coronation. box that floated ashore, while the ship and the crew that carried the box were never heard of. The barking of F. W. Robert-son's dog, he tells us, led to a line of events aged cedar? Then come under its shadow. which brought him from the army into the Christian ministry, where he served Do you believe with Christ and say it is a God with world renowned usefulness. It bridegroom come to fetch home a bride? did not merely happen so. I believe in a Then strike hands with your Lord the particular providence. I believe God's King while I pronounce you everiastingly geometry may be seen in all our life more one. Or if you think with Job that it is a beautifully than in crystallography. Job | jewel, then put it on your hand like a ring, "The crystal cannot equal it." on your neck like a bead, on your forehead was right. THE TRANSPARENCY OF RELIGION. like a star, while looking into the mirror Again I remark that religion is superior of God's Word you acknowledge "the to the crystal in transparency. We know crystal cannot equal it." not when or by whom glass was first dis-THE TRANSFORMATIONS OF RELIGION. Bends of it have been found in Again, religion is superior to the crystal covered. the tomb of Alexander Severus. Vases of in its transformations. The diamond is it are brought up from the ruins of Heronly a crystallization of coal. Carbonate There were female adoraments of lime rises till it becomes calcite or ar-agonite. Red oxide of copper crystallizes culanenm. made out of it three thousand years agothose adornments found now attached to into cubes and octohedrons. Those crys the mummies of Egypt. A great many tals which adorn our persons and our homes and our museums have only been commontators believes that my text means ginns. What would we do without the resurrected from forms that were far from crystal? The crystal in the window to lustrous. Scientists for ages have been ex-keep out the storm and let in the day; the amining these wonderful transformations. crystal over the watch defending its deli- But I tell you in the gospel of the Son of cate machinery, yet allowing us to see the God there is a more wonderful transformahour; the crystal of the telescope, by which tion. Over souls by reason of sin black as the astronomer brings distant worlds so near he can inspect them. Oh, the triumpha of the crystals in the celebrated mine in the day when I make up my indows of Rouen and Salisburyt But there is nothing so transparent in a "What," say you, "will God wear jewelwindows of Rouen and Salisbury! crystal as in our holy religion. It is a ry?" If he wanted it he could make the transparent religion. You put it to your stars of heaven his belt and have the eveneye and you see man-his sin, his soul, his ing cloud for the sandals of his feet, but You look at God and you see he does not want that adornment. He destiny. something of the grandeur of his character. will not have that jewelry. When God It is a transparent religion. Iniidels tell wants jewelry he comes down and digs it us it is opaque. Do you know why they out of the depths and darkness of sin. tell us it is opaque? It is because they are These souls are all crystallizations of blind. The natural man receiveth not the mercy. He puts them on, and he wears things of God because they are spiritually them in the presence of the whole universe. things of God because they are spiritually them in the presence of the hand that was discerned. There is no trouble with the crystal; the trouble is with the eyes which the temples that were sting. "They shall dom, Lord, that our eyes might be opened. When the eye salve cures our blindness then we find that religion is transparent. formation! "The crystal cannot equal it." It is a transparent Bible. All the mount- There she is, a waif of the street, but she Bible cume out-Sinal, the shall be a sister of charity. There he is, a ains of the mountain of the law; Plagab, the mount- sot in the ditch, but he shall preach the ain of prospect; Olivet, the mountain of gospel. There, behind the bars of a prison, instruction; Calvary, the mountain of sachart hat he shall reign with Christ forever. rifice. All the rivers of the Bible come ont- Where sin abounded grace shall much Hidekel, or the river of paradissical beauty; Jardan, or the river of boly chrism; Cherith, or the river of prophetic scipply; Nile, or the river of palaces, and the pure river of life from under the throne, clear who are always enlarging in Christian as crystal. While reading this Hible after meetings about their early dissipation. Do nor eyes have been touched by grace we not go into the particulars, my brothers. find it all transparent, and the earth tooks. Simply say you were sick, but make no new with crucifixion agony and new with display of your ulcers. The chief stock in fudgment terror, and Christ appears in trade of some ministers and Christian some of his two hundred and filly six workers seems to be their early crimes and titles, as far as I can count them-the dissipations. The number of poskets you packets you der, the continent, and on and beyond any capacity of mine to velvarse them. Transparent religion! PROVIDENCE IS FELLUCID. The providence that seemed dark before becames pollurid. Now you find God is not trying to put you down. Now you un-

ierstand why you lost that child, and why you lost your property; it was to prepare you for eternal treasures. And why sick ness came, it being the precursor of im-mortal juvenescence. And now you un-derstand why they lied about you and tried to drive you hither and thither. It was to put you in the glorious company of more as longither to the glorious company of the soul then you will see the crystals. Oh, what a magnificent setting for these jewels soul then you will see the crystals. Oh, what a magnificent setting for these jewels such mon as Ignatius, who, when he went of eternity! I sometimes hear people repout to be destroyed by the llons, said: "I am the wheat, and the teeth of the resenting heaven in a way that is far from attractive to me. It seems almost a vulgar wild beasts must first grind me before heaven as they represent it, with great I can become pure bread for Jesus Christ;" or the company of such men as blotches of color and bands of music making a deafening racket. John represents heaven as exquisitely beautiful. Three crystals. In one place he says, "Her light was like a precious stone, clear as crystal." In another place he says, "I saw a pure and the people in the galleries jeering and shouting, "The lions for Polycarp," reriver from under the throne, clear as crys-

of the crystallographer, and he sees in it in-

describable beauty-snowdrift and splint-

plied, "Let them come on," and then stoop-ing down toward the cave where the wild In another place he says, "Before the beasts were roaring to get out, "Let them throne there was a sea of glass clear as crystal." Three crystals! John says cryscome on." Ah, yes, it is persecution to put tal atmosphere. That means health. Balm of eternal June. What weather after the world's east wind! No rack of storm clouds. One breath of that air will cure the worst tubercle. Crystal light on all of your religion to unravel and explain the leaves. Crystal light shimmering on the topaz of the temples. Crystal light tossing in the plumes of the equestrians of heaven on white horses. But "the crys-I remark again that religion surpasses the crystal in its beauty. That lump of crystal is put under the magnifying glass

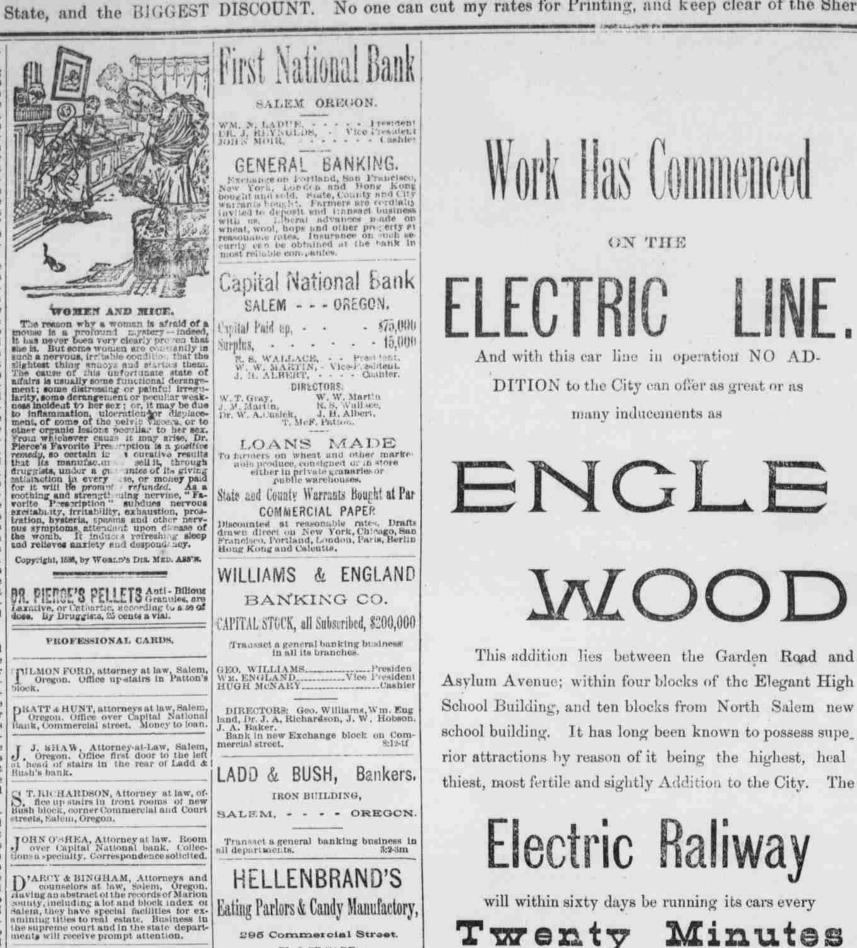
tal cannot equal it." John says crystal river. That means joy. Deep and ever roll-ing. Not one drop of the Thames or the Hudson or the Rhine to soil it Not one tear of human sorrow to imbitter it. Crystal, the rain out of which it was made. Crystal, the bed over which it shall roll and ripple, Crystal, its infinite surface. But "the crystal cannot equal it." John says crystal sea. That means multitu-dinously vast. Vast in rapture. Rapture vast as the sea, deep as the sea, strong as the sea, ever changing as the sea. Billows of light. Billows of beauty, blue with skies that were never clouded and green

with depths that were never fathomed. and not enough about their crown. Do Arctics and Antarctics and Mediterranean and Atlantics and Pacifics in crystalline magnificence. Three crystals-crystal light

"Oh," says some one, putting his hand

over his eyes, "can it be that I who have been in so much sin and trouble will ever come to those crystals?" Yes, it may be-It will be. Heaven we must have, whatever else we have or have not, and we come here to get it. "How much must I pay for it?" you say. You will pay for it just as much as the coal pays to become the dia-mond. In other words, nothing. The same Almighty power that makes the crystals in the mountains will change your heart which is harder than stone, for the promise is, "I will take away your stony heart and I will give you a heart of flesh."

"Oh," says some one, "it is just the doc-trine I want. God is to do everything, and I am to do nothing." My brother, it is not the doctrine you want. The coal makes no resistance. It hears the resurrection voice in the mountain, and it comes to crystallization, but your heart resists. The trouble with you, my brother, is the coal wants to stay coal. I do not ask you to throw open the door and let Christin. I



nly ask that yo ring it. Oh, my friends, we will have to get rid of our sins. I will have to get rid of my sins, and you will have to get rid of your sins. What will we do with our sins among the three crystals? The crystal atmosphere would display our pollution. The crystal river would be befouled with

our touch. The crystal sea would whelm us with its glistening surge. Transformation now or no transformation at all. Give sin full chance in your heart and the transformation will be downward in stead of upward. Instead of a crystal it will be a cinder. In the days of Carthage a Christian girl was condemned to die for her faith, and a boat was bedaubed with tar and pitch and filled with combustibles and set on fire, and the Christian girl was placed in the boat, and the wind was off shore and the boat floated away with its recious treasure. No one can doubt that boat landed at the shore of Heaven. Sin wants to put you in a flery boat and shove you off in an opposite direction-off from peace, off from God, off from heaven, everlastingly off; and the port toward

which you would sail would be a port of darkness, and the guns that would greet you would be the guns of despair, and the flags that would wave at your arrival would be the black flags of death. O, my brother, you must either kill sin or sin will kill you. It is no wild exaggeration when I say that any man or woman that wants to be saved may be saved. Tremendous choice! A thousand people are choosing this moment between salvation and de struction, between light and darkness, be

tween heaven and hell, between charred ruin and glorious crystallization. A Fetish Man.

The fetish man under any name is the anthority on all matters connected with relations of man to the unseen. He is the exorciser of spirits, the maker of charms and the prescriber and regulator of all ceremonial rites. He can discover who "ate the heart" of the chief who died but yesterday, who it was who caused the canoe to upset and give three lives to the croco dile and the dark waters of the Congo, or even who blighted the palm trees of a village and dried up their sap, causing the supply of malafu, or palm wine, to cease, or drove away the rain from a district and withered its fields of nguba (ground nuts). All this is within the ken of the Nganga Nkisi, and he is appealed to on all these ecasions to discover the culprit by his insight into the spirit world, and hand his or her over to the just chastisement of an outraged community. This is the only substitute for religion that the African

savage possesses. Its tenets are vague and unformulated, for with every tribe and every district belief varies and rites and nics are as diverse as the fancies of the fetish men who prescribe them.-E. J. Glave in Century.

Punctuality.

When eight Quaker ladies had an appointment, and seven were punctual, and the eighth, being three minutes too late, began apologising for keeping the others waiting, the reply from one of them was: "I am sorry, friend, that thee should have wasted thine own three minutes; but thee had no right to waste twenty-one more of our time, which was not thine OWD

secretary, on some important occasion, was late, and excused himself by saying his watch was too slow, the ruply was "You will have to get another watch or I

another secretary." Napoleon used to say to his marebals: "You may ask anything of me but time."--New York Ledger.

Yes, He Bought H. Tom-What a pretty rose! Where did

you get it? Jack (boastfully)-A lady gave it to me. Tom (cruelly)-A saleslady)-Puck.

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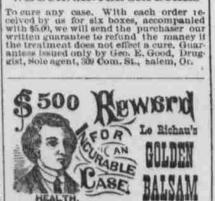
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