

HARP AND JAVELIN.

DR. TALMAGE PREACHES ON A NOVEL SUBJECT.

The Wonderful Soothing and Healing Power of Music as Illustrated by David Before Saul—When Resisted, the Evil Is All the Greater.

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What a spectacle for all ages! Saul, a giant, and David, a dwarf. An unfortunate war ballad had been composed and sung extolling David above Saul.

Whatever the physicians of the royal staff may have prescribed for the disordered king I know not, but David prescribed music.

Again the javelin is flung, and David dodges it and departs. What a contrast! Roseate David with a harp and enraged Saul with a javelin.

The oldest stringed instrument of the world is the harp. Jubal sounded his harp in the book of Genesis.

Everlasting honors to Sebastian Erard, who by pedals invented, called the foot as well as the hand to the harp.

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But the javelin of my text is just as old. It is about 54 feet long, with wooden handle and steel point, keen and sharp.

The structure of the javelin shows what it was made for. The plover's beak is sharp, but aimed to cut the earth in preparation for harvests.

Oh, I am so glad that my text brings them so close together that we can see the contrast between the harp and the javelin.

harp may God grind into dulcinea the sharp edge of the javelin.

Now what does all this make you think of? It suggests to me music as a medicine for physical and mental disorders.

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After the battle of Yorktown, when a musician was to suffer amputation, and before the days of anesthetics, the wounded artist called for a musical instrument.

While there are hymns and tunes ready for the jubilant, there is a rich hymnology for the suffering—'Naomi' and 'Eventide' and 'Autumn Leaves'.

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the campaign or the second tin saloon shut up. At the first verse of 'Glear, My God, to Thee,' the liquor dealers laughed, at the second verse they looked solemn, at the third verse they began to cry, and at the fourth verse they got down on their knees.

THE REBELLIOUS NATURE. But when in my text I see Saul declining this medicine of rhythm and cadence and actually hurling a javelin at the heart of David, the harpist, I ask myself of the fact that sin would like to kill sacred music.

I know there are styles of music that sin admires, and you hear it as you pass the casino or the dance hall, and the devil has stolen most of the fiddles, though I am glad the Old Bulls have snatched up the charmed strings from their desecration.

In many a church the javelin of criticism has killed the music, javelin flung from organ loft or from adjoining pew of the supernaturalist. Saul's javelin aimed at David's harp.

THE MEANNESS OF REVENGE. See also in my subject a rejected opportunity of revenge. Why did David pick up Saul's javelin and hurl it back again? David had a skillful arm.

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churches, they faint there. If they go into noisy hotels or conferences or convocations, they fight there.

Washington was as mighty in his retreats as in his advances. His army would several times have been destroyed if he had not dodged.

What a good thing he dodged the rock on the rocks back of Nazareth! Likewise at Jerusalem one day, while he was stammering up and down in Solomon's porch waiting for an opportunity to say kind words or do a useful deed, the people proposed to pay him for his self sacrifices by stoning him to death.

See also in my subject the unresolvable attitude of javelin toward harp. What had that harp in David's hand done to the javelin in Saul's hand?

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of earth! Harp of heaven! Harp saintly and seraphic! Harp of God! Oh, I like the idea of that old monument in the ancient church at Ullard, near Killybegny, Ireland. The sculpture on that monument, though chiseled more than a thousand years ago, is appropriate today as then, the sculpture representing a harp upon a cross.

And now upon our souls let the harp of heaven rain music, and as when the sun's rays fall aslant in Switzerland at the approach of evening, and the shepherd among the Alps puts the horn to his lips and blows a blast and says, 'Glory be to God,' and all the shepherds on the Alpine heights or down in the deep valleys respond with other blasts of horns, saying, 'Glory be to God,' and then all the shepherds uncover their heads and kneel in worship, and after a few moments of silence some shepherd rises from his knees and says, 'Thanks be to God,' and all through the mountains the responses come from other shepherds. 'Thanks be to God,' so this moment let all the valleys of earth respond to the hills of heaven, with sounds of glory and thanks, and it be harp of earthy worship to harp of heavenly worship, and the words of St. John in the Apocalypse be fulfilled, 'I heard a voice from heaven as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder, and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps.'

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