## EVENING CAPITAL JOURNAL, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1893.

## INCREASE OF FAITH.

REV. DR. TALMAGE ON RE-ENFORCE-MENT AT THE TABERNACLE.

## How to Accomplish This Desirable Result. Science as a Convincing Witness-How

to Give Gespel Life to Freezing Souls.

BROOKLYN, Sopt. 17 .- In his sermon at the Brooklyn Tabernacle this forenoon vast an De Witt Talmage preached to a forcement," the text subject of "Re-en-"Lord, increase our faith." " uke xvii, 5,

What a pity he is going there!" said my friend, a most distinguished general of the army, when he was told that the reason for my not being present on a celebrated day in Brooklyn was that on that day I had sailed for the Holy Land. "Why do you say that?" inquired some one. My military friend replied, "Oh, he will be disillusioned when he gets amid the squalor and common place scenes of Palestine, and his faith will be shaken in Christianity, for that is often the result." The great general misjudged the Case.

I went to the Holy Land for the one purpose of having my faith strengthened, and that was the result which came of it. In all our journeying, in all our reading, in all our associations, in all our plans, augmentation rather than the depletion of our faith should be our chief desire. It is easy enough to have our faith destroyed. I can give you a recipe for its obliteration. Read infidel books, have long and frequent conversations with skeptics, attend the lectures of those antagonistic to religion, give full swing to some bad habit, and your faith will be so completely gone that you will laugh at the idea that you ever had any.

If you want to ruin your faith, you can do it more easily than you can do anything else. After believing the Bible all my life I can see a plain way by which, in six weeks, I could enlist my voice and pen and heart and head and entire nature in the bombardment of the Scriptures and the church and all I now held sacred. That it is easy to banish soon and forever all respect for the Bible 1 prove by the fact that so many have done it. They were God. not particularly brainy nor had especial force of will, but they so thoroughly accomplished the overthrow of their faith that they have no more idea that the Bible is true, or that Christianity amounts to anything, than they have in the truth of the "Arabian Nights' Entertainments" or the existence of Don Quixote's "windmills." They have destroyed their faith so thoroughly that they never will have a return of it.

Fifty revivals of religion may sweep over the city, the town, the neighborhood where they live, and they will feel nothing but a silent or expressed disjust. There are persons in this house today who 20 years ago gave up their faith, and they will never resume it. The black and deep toned bell of doom hangs over their head, and I take the hammen of that bell, and I strike it three times with all my might, and it sounds, woel woe! woe! But my wish, and the wish of most of you, is the prayer expressed by the disciples to Jesus Christ in the words of my text, "Lord, increase our faith.'

STRENGTH OF THE BIBLE.

sharged and surcharged with defama [ tions and indelicacies. The "Memoirs' were read and pondered, and the decision better man for such reading. came that they must be burned, and not until the last word of those "Memoirs" went to ashes did the literary company epurate.

But suppose, now, all the best spirits of all ages were assembled to decide the fate of the Bible, which is the last will and testaniant of our Heavenly Father, and these memoirs of our Lord Jesus, what would be the verdict? Shall they burn, or shall they live? The unanimous verupon me with an emphasis and enthusidict of all is, "Let them live, though all else burn." Then put together on the gater hand all the debauchees and profiunanimous sassins of the ages, and their would be, "Let it burnerning the Bible

Mind you, I do not say that an ..... x .... are immoral, but I do say that all the scrapegraces and scoundrels of the universe agree with them about the Bible. Let me vote with those who believe in The next man I put upon the winner the holv Scriptures. Men believe other things with half the evidence required to believe the Bible. The distinguished Ab-ner Kneeland rejected the Scriptures and then put all his money into an enterprise for the recovery of that hocus pocus "Captain Kidd's treasures." Knee-"Oh, yes! I remember!" But I see and's faith for doing so being founded on a man's statement that he could tell

where those treasures were buried from the looks of a glass of water dipped from the Hudson river. The internal evidence of the authenticity of the Scriptures is so exact and so vivid that no man, honest and sane,

one.

ness and poverty to sobriety and a good home," says another. "It solaced can thoroughly and continuously and prayerfully read them without entering their discipleship. So I put that interme when I lost my child," says another. nal evidence paramount. How are you "It gave me a hope of future treasures led to believe in a letter you received when my property was swept off by the last panic," says another. "It has given from husband or wife or child or friend? me a peace and a satisfaction more to me You know the handwriting. You know than all the world beside," says another. the style. You recognize the sentiment. "It has been to me light and music and When the letter comes, you do not summon the postmaster who stamped it, and fragrance and radiant anticipation," says another. Ahl stop the procession the postmaster who received it, and the letter carrier who brought it to your of witnesses. Enough! Enough! All door to prove that it is a genuine letter. The internal evidence settles it, and by have mightily increased our faith.

the same process you can forever settle the fact that the Bible is the handwrit-Again, our belief is re-enforced by aring and communication of the infinite cheeological exploration. We must confess that good men at one time were afraid of geologist's hammer and chemist's cru-

A SUBLIME PHILOSOPHY.

Furthermore, as 1 have already inticible and archæologist's investigation, mated, we may increase our faith by the but now intelligent Christians are retestimony of others. Perhaps we of lessceiving and still expecting nothing but er brain may have been overcome by confirmation from all such sources. What supports the Palestine Exploration socisuperstition or cajoled into an acceptance of a hollow pretension. So I will this ety? Contributions from churches and morning turn this house into a court-Christian benefactors. I saw the marks room and summon witnesses, and you of the shovels of that exploring society shall be the jury, and I now impanel you amid the ruins of ancient Jericho and for that purpose, and I will put upon the all up and down from the Dead sea to witness stand men whom all the world acknowledge to be strong intellectually church of God, "and the deeper you dig acknowledge to be strong intellectually and whose evidence in any other courtthe better I like." room would be incontrovertible. I will The discovered monuments of Egypt

not call to the witness stand any minister of the gospel, for he might be prejndiced. There are two ways of taking an oath

in a courtroom. One is by putting the lips to the Bible and the other is by holding up the right hand toward heaven. Now, as in this case it is the Bible that is on trial, we will not ask the witness to put the book to his lips, for that would imply that the sanctity and divin-

eaven in affirmation. Salmon P. Chase, chief justice of the

the Bible morning, noon and night, and | books, and pat my finger on the last page have ever since b in the happier and the of Genesis and let me know it, and I can tell you what is on the next page-Next I put upon the stand William E. namely, the first chapter of Exodus; or Gladstone, the head of the English gov-ernment, and I hear him saying what the last chapter of Matthew and let me he said to me in January of 1890, when know it, and I will tell you what is on in reply to his telegram, "Pray come to Hawarden tomorrow," I visited him. Then and there I asked him as to wheth-Bibles there will be no exception. In Then and there I asked him as to wheth-er in the passage of years his faith in the other words, the book gives me confiholy Scriptures and Christianity was on dence by its supernatural adhesion of

the increase or decrease, and he turned writing to writing. Even the stoutert ship cometimes shifts asm such as no one who has not con- its cargo, and that is what made our versed with him can fully appreciate peril the greater in the ship Greece of and expressed by voice and gesture and the National line when the cyclone illumined countenance his ever increas- struck us off the coast of Newfoundland, ing faith in God and the Bible and Chris- and the cargo of iron had shifted as the tianity as the only hope of our ruined ship swung from larboard to starboard, world. "That is all, Mr. Gladstone, we and from starboard to larboard. But, the report. four time now, for, from thanks be to God, this old Bible ship, the report what is going on in Eng-land just now, i the you are very of tempest, has kept its cargo of gold and precious stones compact and sure.

stand is the late Earl of Kintore, and I it has shifted. There they stand stand is the late Earl of Kintore, and I ask him what he thinks of Christianity, and he replies, "Why do you ask me that? Did you not hear me preach Christ Ezekiel and Daniel and Jeremiah that? Did you not hear me preach Christ in the Midnight Mission of London?" and Amos and Obadiah and Jonah and Micah and Nahum and Habakkuk and many witnesses present today in the Zenhaniah and Haggai and Zechariah courtroom, and I call you to the witness and Malachi and Matthew and Mark stand, but I have only a second of time and Luke and John and Paul and Peter, for any one of you. As you pass along all there, and with a certainty of being there until the heavens and the earth, just give one sentence in regard to Christianity. "Under God it has the creation of which is described in the changed my entire nature," says first book of the Bible, shall have Col-"It brought me from drunkenlapsed, and the white horse of the conqueror, described in the last book of the Bible, shall paw the dust in universal demolition. By that tremendous fact my

faith is re-enforced. The discussion is abroad as to who teuch, and in this day of stenography

and typewriting that ought not to be a business men of our towns and cities dictate nearly all their letters; they only sign them after they are dictated. The prophet and evangelist and apostle were Jehovah's stenographers or typewriters. They put down only what God dictated; he signed it afterward. He has been vicissitudes of centuries.

THE PRAYER OF FAITH

But I come to the height of my subject when I say the way to re-enforce our faith is to pray for it. So the disciples in my text got their abounding faith, "Lord, increase our faith," Some one suggests, "Do you really think that prayer amounts to anything?" I might as well ask you, is there a line of telegraphic poles from New York to Washhave chiseled on them the story of the sufferings of the Israelites in Egyptian wires from Manchester to London, from Cologne to Berlin? All the people who bondage, as we find it in the Biblethere, in imperishable stone vaprosenta-tions of the slave, of the whips and lines know of their existence. So there of the taskmasters who compelled the are millions of souls who have been in making of bricks without straw. Exconstant communication with the caphumed Nineveh and Babylon, with their ital of the universe, with the throne of dusty lips, declare the Bible true. Na- the Almighty, with the great God himpoleon's soldiers in the Egyptian cam- self, for years and years and years.

paign pried up a stone, which you may There has not been a day when supity of the book is settled, and that would find in the British museum, a stone, as plications did not flash up and blessings be begging the question. So I shall ask I remember it, presenting perhaps two did not flash down. Will some ignoeach witness to lift his hand toward feet of lettered surface. It contains words ramns, who has never received a tele-



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is to study the Bible itself. I do not believe there is an infidel now alive who has read the Bible through. But as so important a document needs to be read at least twice through in order that it may be thoroughly understood, and read in course, I now offer \$100 reward to any infidel who has read the Bible through twice and read it in course. But plies: "There came a time in my life I cannot take such a man's own word for it, for there is no foundation for integrity except the Bible, and the man who rejects the source of truth how can I accept his truthfulness?

So I must have another witness in the case before I give the reward. I must have the testimony of some one who has seen him read it all through twice. Infidels fish in this Bible for incoherencies and contradictions and absurdities, and if you find their Bible you will see interlineations in the book of Jonah and some of the chapters of that unfortunate prophet nearly worn out by much use, and some parts of II Samuel or I Kings you will find dim with finger marks, but the pages which contain the Ten Commandments, and the Psalms of David, and the sermon on the mount, and the book of John the Evangelist, will not have a single lead pencil stroke in the margin nor any finger marks showing frequent perusal.

The father of one of the presidents of the United States was a pronounced infidel. I knew it when many years ago I accepted his invitation to spend the night in his home. Just before retiring at night he said in a jocose way, "I suppose you are accustomed to read the Bible before going to bed, and here is my Bible from which to read." He then told me what portions he would like to have me read, and he only asked for those portions on which he could easily be facetious.

You know you can make fun about anything. I suppose you could take the last letter your father or mother ever vrote and find something in the gramar or the spelling or the tremor of the penmanship about which to be derisively, critical. The internal evidence mighty truthfulness of the Biblie 1,600,000,600 that no one manesent population or the of the millions of the past ever read the is the Bible." suble in course, and read it prayerfully and carefully, but was led to believe it. John Murray, the famous book publisher of Edinburgh and the intimate friend of Southey, Coleridge, Walter Scott, Canning and Washington Irving, bought of Moore, the poet, the "Memoirs of Lord Byron," and they were to be published after Byron's death. But they re not fit to be published, although unray had paid for them \$10,000. That s a solemn conclave when eight of the comment literary people of those times combined in Albemarie street after By-ron's death to decide what should be done with the "Memoirs," which were

supreme court of the United States, appointed by President Lincoln, will take the witness stand. "Chief Justice Chase, upon your oath, please state what you have to say about the book commonly called the Bible." The witness rewhen I doubted the divinity of the Scriptures, and I resolved, as a lawyer and judge, I would try the book as I would try anything in the courtroom, taking evidence for and against. It was a long and serious and profound | lid will find its corroboration in ancient study, and using the same principles of evidence in this religious matter as I always do in secular matters I have come to the decision that the Bible is a supernatural book, that it has come from God, and that the only safety for the human race is to follow its teachings," "Judge, that will do. Go Mack again to your pillow of dust on the

banks of the Ohio." Next I put upon the witness stand a president of the United States-John Quincy Adams. President Adams, what have you to say about the Bible and Christianity?" The president replies: "I have for many years made it a practice to read through the Bible once a year. My custom is to read four or five chapters every morning immediately after arising from my bed. It employs about

an hour of my time and seems to me the most suitable manner of beginning the day. In what light soever we regard the Bible, whether with reference to revelation, to history or to morality, it is an invaluable and inexhaustible mine of knowledge and virtue." Next I put upon the witness stand Sir

Isaac Newton, the author of the "Principia" and the greatest natural philosopher the world has ever seen. "Sir Isaac, what have you to say concernig."

the Bibler" The philosopher and to be "We account the Scrintphy."

the most subligion the witness stand the Nextment of letters, Sir Walter scott, and when I ask him what he thinks of the place that our great book ought to take among other books he replies, "There is but one book, and that

Next I put upon the stand the most famous geologist of all time, Hugh Mil-ler, an elder of Dr. Guthrie's Presbyterian church in Edinburgh, and Faraday and Kepler, and they all testify to the same thing. They all say the Bible is from God, and that the mightiest infinence for good that ever touched our

world is Christianity. "Chancellor Kent, what do you think

in three langaages. That stone was the key that unlocked the meaning of all events which Moses recorded.

TESTIMONY OF THE ROCKS.

mains of the tower of Babel have been found. Assyrian documents lifted from the saud and Behistun inscription hundreds of feet high up on the rock echo and re-echo the truth of Bible history. The signs of the time indicate that almost every fact of the Bible from lid to

city disentombed, or ancient wall cleared from the dust of ages, or ancient document unrolled by archeologist. Before the world rolls on as far into the twentieth century as it has already rolled into the ninetcenth an infidel

will be a man who does not believe his own senses, and the volumes now crit-

shelf as curiosities of ignorance or idiocy. All success to the pickaxes and crowthe ringing defiance of the old Huguenots away, you rebels! Your hammers break,

but the anvil of God's word stands." How wonderfully the old book hangs ogether. It is a library made up of 60 ooks and written by at least 89 authors.

5 anthors, and put them together, and and the cattle moaued with thirst at the how long would they stay tompiled bars, and the cattle mound with thirst at the books of "elegant exite proverbially to run, and the grass withered, and from many any of know one such book the corn was shriveled up, and one day short lived use the publisher's phrase, there was a growl of thunder, and

which life in it" for five years.

ammunition with which prophet and rowed from her neighbors all the vessels

there is no such thing as telegraphic good surgeon of New York, stood watchthe hieroglyphics of tombs and obelisks communication? Will some one who and tells over and over again the same has never offered a prayer that was heard and answered come and tell us Thomas to one of them out in the break

answer will come down. During the blizzard of four or five

years ago, you know that many of the alegraph wires were prostrated, and I telegraphed to Chicago by the way of Liverpool, and the answer after awhile came round by another wide circuit and so the prayer we offer may come back in a way we never imagined, and if we ask to have our faith increased, although it may come by a widely different process than that which we exour confidence will surely be pected,

augmented. Oh, put it in every prayer you ever ical and denunciatory of the Bible, if make between your next breath and not entirely devastated by the book- your last gasp, "Lord, increase our worms, will be taken down from the faith"-faith in Christ as our personal nansom from present guilt and eternal catastrophe; faith in the omnipotent bars and powder blasting of those apos-tles of archeeological exploration. I like truest volume ever dictated or written Holy Ghost; faits in the Bible, the or printed or read; fuith in adverse to the assailants of Christianity: "Pound providences, harmonized for our best welfare; faith in a judgment day that will set all things right which have for ages been wrong.

Increase our fash, not by a fragile addition, but by an tifinitude of recupera-It is a supernatural thing that they have tion. Let us do as we yet in one in the It is a supernatural thing that they have thom the were yet in the in the stuck together. Take the writings of any country while were yet in the supernatural thing that they have the supernatural the s

then a congregation of clouds on the Why is it that the Bible, made up of sky, and then a startling flash, and then the writings of at least 89 authors, has a drenching rain, and father and mother kept together for a long line of centu- put barrels under every spont at the cor ries when the natural tendency would ners of the house and set pails and buckhave been to fly apart like loose sheets of ets and tubs and pans and pitchers to paper when a gust of wind blows upon catch as much as they could of the showthem? It is because God stuck them to- er. For in many of our souls there has gether and keeps them together. But for been a long drought of confidence and that Joshua would have wandered off in in many no faith at all. Let us set out one direction, and Paul into another, and all our affections, all our hopes, all our Excised into another, and Habakkuk into contemplations, all our prayers, to catch another, and the 59 authors into 89 direc- a mighty shower. "Lord, increase our

faith. Put the writings of Shakespeare and ( I like the way that the minister's wid-Tennyson and Longfellow, or any part ow did in Elisha's time, when, after the of them, together. How long would they family being very unfortunate, her two stay together? No book bindery could sons were about to be sold for debt, and keep them together. But the cannon of she had nothing in the house but a pot Scripture is loaded now with the same of oil, and at Elisha's direct in she bor-

of the Bible? Answer: "No other book ever addressed itself so authoritatively and so pathetically to the judgment and moral sense of mankind." "Edmund Burke, what do you think of the Bible?" Answer: "I have read she could borrow, and then began to

side, and a bad habit cyclone struck dered farall sides, and they have founfrom God, and they shore, far away are washed, ashore with no me down or left in them.

But, thank God, there are many here today with enough faith left to encour-age us in the effort at their resuscitation. All hands to the beach! With a confidence in God that takes no denial, let us lay hold of them! Fetch them out of the breakers! Bring gospel warmth and gospel stimulus and gospel life to their freezing souls! Resuscitation! **Besuncitation**!



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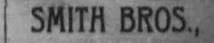
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