

GOD AMONG THE SHELLS

"FOOTPRINTS OF THE CREATOR" EVERYWHERE ABOUT US.

REV. DR. TALMAGE DRAWS LESSONS OF LOVE AND GRACE FROM THE EXQUISITE HARMONIES OF NATURE'S FORMS AND COLORS

—BROOKLYN, Feb. 18, 1891.—In the Tabernacle this forenoon, Rev. Dr. Talmage preached his course of sermons on "God Everywhere." His subject was: "The Conchology of the Bible, or God Among the Shells," the text being taken from Exodus, 15th chapter, 34th verse: "And the Lord said unto Moses: Take unto thee sweet spices, stacte and onycha."

one at the beginning and one at the close, but both upside down.
Thank God for the wealth of mollusks all up and down the earth, whether feeding their families on their way to the land flowing with milk and honey, or, as they are better acquainted with the mollusks, when hung to the beach of lake or sea. There are three great families of them. If I should ask you to name three of the great royal families of the earth, perhaps you would respond, the House of Stuart, the House of Hapsburg, the House of Bourbon, but the three royal families of mollusks are the Univalve, or shell in one part, the Bivalve, or shell of two parts, and the Multivalve, or shell in many parts, and I see God in their every hinge, in their every tooth, in their every cartilage, in their every ligament, in their every spiral ridge, in their every coil, prism or pillar, and their adaptation of their shells for the ponds and thick coatings for boisterous seas. They all dash upon me the thought of the providential care of God. What is the use of all this architecture? Who should have brought up from the outside lip clear down into its labyrinth of construction? Why the infinity of skill and radiance in a shell? What is the use of the color and exquisite texture? Who should have painted by dredge or rake, fetiches the crustacean specimens to the shore, does he find at its feet whole Alhambras and Colosseums and Parthenons and crystal palaces of beauty in miniature, and these bring to light only an infinitesimal part of the splendor of the great aqueous world. Linnaeus counted twenty-five hundred species of shells, but conchology had then only begun its achievements. While exploring the bed of shells, the Atlantic coast, in progress of laying the cable, shelled animals were brought up from depths of nineteen hundred fathoms. When lifting the telegraph wire from the Mediterranean and Red Seas, the shelled creatures were brought up from depths of two thousand fathoms. The English Admiralty, exploring in behalf of science, found mollusks at a depth of twenty-four hundred and thirty-five fathoms, or fourteen thousand two hundred and twenty feet deep. What a realm awful for vastness!

As the shell is only the house and the wardrobe of insignificant animals of the deep, why all that wonder and beauty of construction? Who should have prepared the only reason. And if God provides so munificently for them, will he not see that you have wardrobe and shelter? Wardrobe and shelter for a periwinkle; shall there not be wardrobe and shelter for a man? What shall God give you for the defence of a Nautilus and leave you no defence against the storm? Does He build a stone for a creature that lasts a season and leave without home a soul that holds on centuries? Hugh Miller found "The Footprints of the Creator in the Old Red Sandstone," and I hear the harmonies of God in the tinkle of the sea shells when the tides come in. The same Christ who drew a lesson of providential care from the shell, has also drawn the grass of the field instructs me to draw the same lessons from the shells.

In almost every man's life, however well born and prosperous for years, and in almost every woman's life, there comes a veiled shadow, the dark time, at least one, a conjuncture of circumstances will threaten bankruptcy and homelessness and starvation. It may be that those words will meet the ear or will meet the eye of those who are in such state of foreboding. Come, then, and see how God gives an ivory palace to a water animal that could cover with a ten-cent piece, and clothes in armor against all attack, a coral no bigger than a snowflake. I do not think that God will take better care of a butterfly than of a shell, or a raker to your feet with the Gospel rakes the most thorough evidences of God's care for his creatures, I pile around each great mound of shells, that they may teach the lesson of providential care. Oh, ye little faith, walk among the arbors of coralline, and look at these bouquets of shell fit to be handed a queen on her coronation day, and see these fallen rainbows of color, and examine these lilacs and peonies, and these diamonds in stone, and these heliopes in stone, these cowslips in stone, these geraniums in stone, these jasmines in stone. Oh, ye who have your trophies ready, looking out on clear nights, trying to see the stars, you know not how to work, and like the mollusks, build their own fortunes out of their own brain, out of their own sweat, out of their own industries. Not a mollusk on all the beaches of all the seas would have a house of its own, it is a most interesting fact to see these crustacean animals fashion their own home out of carbonate of lime and membrane. And all of this is a mighty lesson to those who are waiting for others to build their fortunes when they ought to go to work, and like the mollusks, build their own fortunes out of their own brain, out of their own sweat, out of their own industries. Not a mollusk on all the beaches of all the seas would have a house of its own, it is a most interesting fact to see these crustacean animals fashion their own home out of carbonate of lime and membrane. And all of this is a mighty lesson to those who are waiting for others to build their fortunes when they ought to go to work, and like the mollusks, build their own fortunes out of their own brain, out of their own sweat, out of their own industries. Not a mollusk on all the beaches of all the seas would have a house of its own, it is a most interesting fact to see these crustacean animals fashion their own home out of carbonate of lime and membrane. And all of this is a mighty lesson to those who are waiting for others to build their fortunes when they ought to go to work, and like the mollusks, build their own fortunes out of their own brain, out of their own sweat, out of their own industries.

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A Reduction of the Duties on COAL OIL AND BINDER TWINE

Other Reductions to be Considered.

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Mr. Foster's speech occupied exactly two hours and 20 minutes, the last hour of which was devoted to the tariff, its effect upon the country, and the proposed revision of the present amendments brought down by the Government.

Mr. Foster is a slight man in his 46th year, weighing less than 140 pounds, with a small, well-shaped head covered with fine brown hair, a prominent nose, and eyes of a keen, penetrating cast. He has a well-placed voice, and his address is marked by a frequent emphasis on many of his points.

During the course of his speech Mr. Foster was loudly cheered by his followers, and especially when he took a shot at his opponents across the way. The Opposition listened in good temper, and gave him, as he did not expect, an attentive hearing.

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