A RETROSPECTIVE REVIEW OF ONE'S VICISSITUDES IN LIFE.

REV. DR. TALMAGE'S MEMORIES.

A Day of Terder Reminiscence in Nova Scotia-His Pasterate, His Departed Friends, His Boyhood, All Came Back Again With Redoubled Though Mellowed Force-Value of a Glimpse Back.

Washington, May 7 .- Rev. Dr. Talmage this morning preached from the text, Psalms xxxix, 3, "While I was

musing the fire burned." He said: Here is David, the psalmist, with the forefinger of his right hand against his temple and the door shut against the world, engaged in contemplation. And it would be well for us to take the same posture often while we sit down in sweet

solitude to contemplate. In a small island off the coast of Nova Scotia I once passed a Sabbath in delightful solitude, for I had resolved that I would have one day of entire quiet before I entered upon autumnal work. I thought to have spent the day in laying out plans for Christian work, but instead of that it became a day of tender reminiscence. I reviewed my pastorate; I shook hands with an old departed friend, whom I shall greet again when the curtains of life are lifted. The days of my boyhood came back, and I was 10 years of age, and I was 8, and I was 5. There was but one house on the island, and yet from Sabbath daybreak, when the bird chant woke me, until the evening melted into the Bay of Fundy, from shore to shore there were ten thousand memories, and the groves were a-hum with voices that had

long ago ceased. Youth is apt too much to spend all its time in looking forward. Old age is apt too much to spend all its time in looking backward. People in midlife and on the apex look both ways. It would be well for us, I think, however, to spend more time in reminiscence. By the constitution of our nature we spend most of the time looking forward. And the vast majority of people live not so much in the present as in the future. I find that you mean to make a reputation, you mean to establish yourself, and the advantages that you expect to achieve absorb a great deal of your time. But I see no harm in this, if it does not make you discontented with the present or disqualify you for existing duties. It is a useful thing sometimes to look back and to see the dangers we have escaped and to see the sorrows we have suffered and the trials and wanderings of our earthly pilgrimage and to sum up our enjoyments. I mean, so far as God may help me, to stir up your memory of the past, so that in the review you may be encouraged and humbled and urged to

There is a chapel in Florence with a fresco by Guido. It was covered up with two inches of stucco until our American and European artists went there, and after long toil removed the covering and retraced the fresco. And I am aware that the memory of the past, with many of you, is all covered up with obliterations, and I now propose, so far as the Lord may help me, to take away the covering, that the old picture may shine out again. I want to bind in one sheaf all your past advantages, and I want to bind in another sheaf all your past adversities. It is a precious harvest, and I must be cautious how I swing the scythe.

Among the greatest advantages of your past life were an early home and its surroundings. The bad men of the day, for the most part, dip their heated passions out of the boiling spring of an unhappy home. We are not surprised to find that Byron's heart was a concentration of sin when we hear his mother was abandoned and that she made sport of his infirmity and often called him "the lame brat." He who has vicious parents has to fight every inch of his way if he would maintain his integrity and at last reach the home of the good in heaven. Perhaps your early home was in a city. It may have been when Pennsylvania avenue, Washington, was residential, as now it is commercial, and Canal street, New York, was far up town. That old house in the city may have been demolished or changed into stores, and it seemed like sacrilege to you, for there was more meaning in that small house than there is in a granite mansion or a turreted cathedral. Looking back, you see it as though it were yesterday-the sitting room, where the loved one sat by the plain lamp light, the mother at the evening stand, the brothers and sisters, perhaps long ago gathered into the skies, then plotting mischief on the floor or under the table, your father with firm voice commanding a silence that lasted half a minute.

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Oh, those were good days! If you had your foot hurt, your mother always had a soothing salve to heal it. If you were wronged in the street, your father was always ready to protect you. The year was one round of frolic and mirth. Your greatest trouble was an April shower, more sunshine than shower. The heart had not been ransacked by trouble, nor had sickness broken it, and no lamb had a warmer sheepfold than the home in

which your childhood nestled. Perhaps you were brought up in the country. You stand now to-day in memory under the old tree. You clubbed it for fruit that was not quite ripe, because you couldn't wait any longer. You hear the brook rumbling along over the pehbles. You step again into the furrow where your father in his shirt sleeves shouted to the lazy oxen. You frighten the swallows from the rafters of the barn and take just one egg and silence your conscience by saying they will not miss it. You take a drink again out of the very bucket that the old well fetched up. You go for the cows at night and find them pushing their heads through streets you wish you were home again on of the farmhouse, through which there

blossom of buckwheat. The father who used to come in sun- so. Father, for so it seemeth good in thy burned from the field and sit down on sight." the doorsill and wipe the sweat from his

but forget that home you never will. Have you thanked God for it? Have you rehearsed all these blessed reminiscences? Oh, thank God for a Christian father! Thank God for a Christian mother! Thank God for an early Christian altar at which you were taught to kneel Thank God for an early Christian home! I bring to mind another passage in the

history of your life. The day came when you set up your own household. The days passed along in quiet blessedness. You twain sat at the table morning and night and talked over your plans for the future. The most insignificant affair in your life became the subject of mutual consultation and advisement. You were so happy you felt you never could be any happier. One day a dark cloud hovered over your dwelling, and it got darker and darker, but out of that cloud the shining messenger of God descended to incarnate an immortal spirit. Two little feet started on an eternal journey, and you were to lead them, a gem to flash in heaven's coronet, and you to polish it. Eternal ages of light and darkness watching the starting out of a newly-created creature. You rejoiced and you trembled at the responsibility that in your possession an immortal treasure was placed. You prayed and rejoiced and wept and wondered. You were earnest in supplication that you might lead it through life into the kingdom of God. There was a tremor in your earnestness. There was a double interest about that home. There was an additional interest why you should stay there and be faithful, and when in a few months your house was filled with the music of the child's laughter you were struck through with the fact that you had a stupendous mission.

Have you kept that vow? Have you neglected any of these duties? Is your home as much to you as it used to be? Have those anticipations been gratified? God help you in your solemn reminiscence, and let his mercy fall upon your soul, if your kindness has been il requited. God have mercy on the parent on the wrinkles of whose face is written the story of a child's sin. God have mercy on the mother who, in addition to her other pangs, has the pang of a child's iniquity. Oh, there are many, many sad sounds in this sad world, but the saddest sound that is ever heard is the breaking

of a mother's heart+ I find another point in your life history. You found one day you were in the wrong road; you could not sleep at night; there was just one word that seemed to sob through your banking house or through your office or your shop or your bedroom, and that word was "eternity." You said: "I'm not ready for it. Oh, God have mercy!" The Lord heard. Peace came to your heart. In the breath of the hill and in the waterfall's dash you heard the voice of God's love; the clouds and the trees hailed you with gladness; you came into the house of God. You remember how your hand trembled as you took up the cup of the communion. You remember the old minister who consecrated it, and you remember the church officials who carried it through the aisle; you remember the old people who at the close of the service took your hand in theirs in congratulating sympathy, as much as to say, "Welcome home, you lost prodigal," and, though those hands be all withered away, that communion Sabbath is resurrected to-day. It is resurrected with all its prayers and songs and tears and sermons and transfiguration. Have you kept those vows? Have vou been a backslider? God help you. This day kneel at the foot of mercy and start again for heaven. Start now as you started then. I rouse your soul by that reminiscence.

But I must not spend any more of my time in going over the advantages of your life. I just put them in one great sheaf, and I call them up in your memory with one loud harvest song, such as the reapers sing. Praise the Lord, ye blood bought immortals on earth! Praise

the Lord, ye crowned spirits of heaven! But some of you have not always had a smooth life. Some of you are now in the shadow. Others had their troubles years ago. You are a mere wreck of what you once were. I must gather up the sorrows of your past life. But how shall I do it? You say that is impossible, as you have had so many troubles and adversities. Then I will just take two-the first trouble and the last trouble. As when you are walking along the street and there has been music in the distance you unconsciously find yourselves keeping step to the music, so, when you started life, your very life was a musical time beat. The air was full of joy and hilarity. With the bright clear oar you made the boat skip. You went on, and life grew brighter, until after awhile suddenly a voice from heaven said, "Halt!" and quick as the sunshine you halted, you grew pale, you confronted your first sorrow. You had no idea that the flush on your child's cheek was an unhealthy flush. You said it cannot be anything serious. Death in slippered feet walked round about the cradle. You did not hear the tread. But after awhile the truth flashed on you. You walked the floor. Oh, if you could, with your strong, stout hand, have wrenched that child from the destroyer! You went to your room, and you said: "God, save my child! God, save my child!'

The world seemed going out in darkness. You said, "I can't bear it; I can't bear it." You felt as if you could not put the long lashes over the bright eyes, never to see them again sparkle. If you could have taken that little one in your arms and with it leaped the grave, how gladly you would have done it! If you could let your property go, your houses go, your land and your storehouse go, how gladly you would have allowed them to depart if you could only have kept

But one day there came up a chill blast that swept through the bedroom, and instantly all the lights went out, and there was darkness-thick, murky, impenetrable, shuddering darkness. But God did not leave you there. Mercy spoke. the bars. Ofttimes in the dusty and busy | As you took up the bitter cup to put it to your lips God said, "Let it pass," and that cool grass or in the rag carpeted hall forthwith, as by the hand of angels, another cup was put into your hands. It came the breath of new mown hay or the was the cup of God's consolation. And as you have sometimes lifted the head of You may have in your windows now a wounded soldier and poured wine into beautiful plants and flowers brought his lips, so God puts his left arm under from across the seas, but not one of them | your head and with his right band he stirs in your soul so much charm and pours into your lips the wine of his commemory as the old ivy and the yellow fort and his consolation, and you looked sunflower that stood sentinel along the at the empty cradle and looked at your garden walk and the forget-me-nots play- broken heart, and you looked at the ing hide and seek mid the long grass. Lord's chastisement, and you said, "Even

Ah, it was your first trouble. How did brow may have gone to his everlasting you get over it? God comforted you. You rest. The mother who used to sit at the have been a better man ever since. You door a little bent over, cap and spectacles have been a better woman ever since. In on, her face mellowing with the vicissi- the jar of the closing gate of the sepultudes of many years, may have put down oher you heard the clanging of the openher gray head on the pillow in the valley, ing gate of heaven, and you felt an irre-

sistible drawing heavenward. You have been spiritually better ever since that INHUMAN TREATMENT OF AN ORPHAN night when the little one for the last time put its arms around your neckland said: "Good night, papa; good night, village of Flinton, North Hastings, was mamma. Meet me in heaven."

ness. The child's tread on the stair or the have just come to light concerning the tick of the watch on the stand disturbed treatment to which a resident of that you. Through the long weary days you place, has been subjecting her little orphan counted the figures in the carpet or the girl, Rosie Bolin, who has been employed flowers in the wall paper. Oh, the weari- as her servant for the past five months. ness of exhaustion! Oh, the burning Rosie submitted to the treatment as long pangs! Would God it were morning, as she could, until finally she became so would God it were night, was your frequent cry. But you are better, or perhaps frightened that on Thursday last about even well. Have you thanked God that midnight she made her escape from the to-day you can come out in the fresh house and the next day stated her case to air; that you are in your place to hear Constable Hicks. She said that her God's name and to sing God's praise and mistress had made her get down on her to implore God's help and to ask God's all our diseases and redeemeth our lives that she had no improper relations with from destruction.

that there shall be a shelter for your mation is beyond question. head from the storm, and there is air for your lungs and blood for your heart and light for your eye and a glad and glorious and triumphant religion for your soul?

Perhaps your last trouble was a berout deliberation you say, "I will go and tell mother," the thought flashes on you, "I have no mother." Or the father, with voice less tender, but with heart as lov- day:ing, watchful of all your ways, exultant over your success without saying much, although the old people do talk it over with a familiar talk by the teacher on the by themselves, his trembling hand on British Empire, its extent and resources; that staff which you now keep as a fam- the relation of Canada to the Empire; the ily relic, his memory embalmed in grate- unity of the Empire and its advantages; there was your companion in life, sharer the privileges which, as British subjects, of your joys and sorrows, taken, leaving | we enjoy; the extent of Canada and its rethe heart an old ruin, where the ill sources; readings from Canadian and winds blow over a wide wilderness of British authors by the teacher; interesting desolation, the sands of the desert driving historical incidents in connection with our across the place which once bloomed like own country. The aim of the teacher in the garden of God. And Abraham all his references to Canada and the Emmourns for Sarah at the cave of Machpelah. As you were moving along your pire should be, to make Canadian patriopath in life, suddenly, right before you, tism intelligent, comprehensive and was an open grave. People looked down, strong. and they saw it was only a few feet wide, but to you it was a cavern, down which - The afternoon, commencing at 2.30 p.m. went all your hopes and all your expecta- might be occupied with patriotic recita. tions. But cheer up, in the name of the tions, songs, readings by the pupils and Lord Jesus Christ, the Comforter. He is not going to forsake you. Did the Lord take that child out of your arms? Why, he is going to shelter it better than you robe and palm branch and have it all Blessed the broken heart that Jesus heals! Blessed the importunate cry that Jesus compassionates! Blessed the weeping eye from which the soft hand of Jesus wipes away the tear!

Some years ago I was sailing down the "Empire Day" as herein set forth. St. John River, which is the Rhine and the Hudson commingled, and while I was on the deck of the steamer a gentleman pointed out to me the places of inprovinces of New Braswick and Nova authorities of the college. Scotia." "What," s... I I. "do you mean by 'interval land?' " "Well," he said, "this land is submerged for a part of the than I know of elsewhere." And I inthis world that are the scene of the great- survive him. est prosperity, but the soul over which the floods of sorrow have gone-the soul over which the freshets of tribulation have torn their way-that yields the greatest fruits of righteousness and the largest harvest for time and the richest harvest for eternity." Bless God that your soul is interval land!

There is one more point of absorbing reminiscence, and that is the last hour of life, when we have to look over all our past existence. What a moment that will be! I place Napoleon's dying reminiscence on St. Helena beside Mrs. Judson's dying reminiscence in the harbor of St. Helena, the same island, 20 years after. Napoleon's dying reminiscence was one of delirium -"Tete d'armee"-"Head of the army." Mrs. Judson's dying reminiscence, as she came home from her missionary toil and her life of self sacrifice for God, dying in the cabin of the ship in the harbor of St. Helena. was, "I always did love the Lord Jesus Christ." And then, the historian says, she fell into a sound sleep for an hour and woke amid the songs of angels. I place the dying reminiscence of Augustus Ceasar against the dying reminiscence of the apostle Paul. The dying reminiscence of Augustus Ceasar was, addressing his attendants, "Have I played my part well on the stage of life?" and they answered in the affirmative, and he said, 'Why, then, don't you applaud me?" The dying reminiscence of Paul the apostle was, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith; henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me in that day, and not to me only, but to all them that love his appearing." Augustus Caesar died amid pomp and great surroundings. Paul uttered his dying reminiscence looking up through the wall of a dungeon. God grant that our dying pillow may be the closing of a useful life and the opening of a glorious

Singing From the Heart. Singing is a heart service. It is making melody within the heart to the Lord. Some of God's most acceptable hymns are sung in silence. The heart simply hums some old tune which none save

A FLINTON WOMAN'S CRUELTY.

The Tweed News says: The quiet little thrown into a state of excitement last row. What was it? Perhaps it was sick- week over some startling facts which knees and kiss the crucifix and declare Perhaps your last sorrow was a finan- that she had taken the butcher knife and cial embarrassment. I congra. late some threatened to put it through her (Rosie's) of you on your lucrative profession or heart on different occasions, and that she occupation, on ornate apparel, on a com- had called her indecent names. Rosie also your hands on seems to turn to gold. But stated that when she told her mistress there are others of you who are like the that she did not want to stay any longer, ship on which Paul sailed where two seas but that she wanted to go to her auntie's, met, and you are broken by the violence she flew at her in a rage and threatened to of the waves. By an unadvised indorse- crush her into the floor, if she dared to ment, or by a conjunction of unforeseen think of leaving. After Rosie made her events, or by fire or storm, or a senseless escape on Thursday night, she was afraid and where you once dispensed great charities now you have hard work to win ies sent Constable Hicks with her for proyour daily bread. Have you forgotten to tection. The clothes were given up with. thank God for your days of prosperity out any objections, but it is said by those and that through your trials some of you who saw the clothes that they were not have made investments which will con- fit for mop-rags. Some of the neighbors tinue after the last bank of this world has exploded and the silver and gold are molten in the fires of a burning world? some clothing. Such inhuman treatment Have you, amid all your losses and dis- of an innocert child seems almost imposcouragements, forgot that there was sible and hard to credit, but the source bread on your table this morning and from which the News received the infor-

#### Empire Day

The Dominion Educational Association has developed a scheme to cultivate the was your refuge, the parental heart, and patriotic spirit in school children. The which has been a source of the quickest idea is to observe the school day imsympathy ever since, has suddenly be- mediately preceding the 24th of May as come silent forever. And now sometimes, "Empire Day." This year it falls on Tueswhenever in sudden annoyance and with- day the 23rd. Hon. G. W. Ross in behalf of the Ontario Department suggests the following exercises in the school on that

IN THE FORENOON. Part of the forenoon might be occupied

THE AFTERNOON. speeches by trustees, clergymen and such other persons as may be available.

The trustees and public generally should could. He is going to array it in a white be invited to be present at these exercises. During the day the British flag or Canaready to greet you at your coming home. dian Ensign should be hoisted over the school building.

Will you kindly inform the teachers of your inspectoral district of the action of the Department and of the purposes of

-Rev. S. C. Bethune, who recently resigned the headmastership of Trinity Colterest, and he said. "All this is interval lege School, Port Hope, has been voted land, and it is the richest land in all the \$500 a year for a period of 5 years by the

-Isaac Bell, one of the earliest settlers of Spence township, Parry Sound district year. Spring freshets come down, and all died on April 29th, aged 89 years. He these plains are overflowed with water, was a native of Fermanagh, Ireland, and and the water leaves rich deposit, and came to this country in 1844. He was a when the waters are gone the harvest resident of Spence township for the past | W springs up, and there is a richer harvest 25 years, and an active Orangeman since he was 15 years of age. He was married the church, and it is not the heights of 54 years, and his widow and six sons

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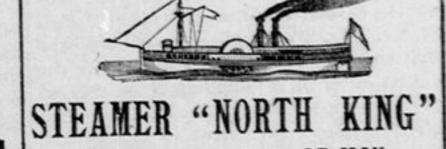
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