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WORLD AS IT WILL BE

WHEN RIGHTEOUSNESS REIGNS DESCRIBED BY DR. TALMAGE.

REVOLUTIONIZED FOR GOOD.

A Tonic for the Weary and Heartworn in the Struggle to Better the Conditions of Themselves and Their Fellow-men - What Will Happen on the World's Complete Gospelization.

Washington, Dec. 3.-By a novel mode Dr. Talmage in this discourse shows how the world will look after it has been revolutionized for good; text, II Peter iii, 13, "A new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness."

Down in the struggle to make the world better and happier we sometimes get depressed with the obstacles to be overcome and the work to be accomplished. Will it not be a tonic and an inspiration to look at the world as it will be when it has been brought back to paradisaical condition? So let us for a few moments transport ourselves into the future and put ourselves forward in the centuries and see the world in its rescued and perfected state, as we will see it if in those times we are permitted to revisit this planet, as I am sure we will. We all want to see the world after it has been thoroughly gospelized and all wrongs have been righted. We will want to come back, and we will come back to look upon the refulgent consummation toward which we have been on larger or smaller scale toiling.

Having heard the picture as the painter first drew its outlines, upon canvas, we will want to see it when it is as complete as Rubens' "Descent from the Cross," or Michael Angelo's "Last Judgment." Having seen the world under the gleam of the star of Bethlehem, we will want to see it when, under the full shining of the sun of righteousness, the towers shall strike 12 at noon.

There will be nothing in that coming century of the world's perfection to hinder our terrestrial visit. Our power and velocity of locomotion will have been improved infinitely. It will not take us long to come here, however far off in God's universe heaven may be. The Bible declares that such visitation is going on now. "Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister to those who shall be heirs of salvation?" Surely the gates of heaven will not be bolted after the world is Edenized so as to hinder the redeemed from descending for a tour of inspection and congratulation and triumph.

I imagine that we are descending at that period of the world's complete gospelization. There will be no peril in such a descent. Great heights and depths have no alarm for glorified spirits. We can come down through chasms between worlds without growing dizzy and across the spaces of half the universe without losing our way.

After passing on amid columns and statues erected in memory of those who have been mighty for goodness in the world's history, the highest and the most exquisitely sculptured those in honor of such as have been most effectual in saving life or improving life rather than those renowned for destroying life, we come upon another group of buildings that must have been transformed from their original shape and adapted to other uses. "What is all this?" we ask our escort. He answers: "Those were almshouses and hospitals, but accuracy in making and prudence in running machinery of all sorts have almost abolished the list of casualties, and sobriety and industry have nearly abolished pauperism, so that those buildings which were once hospitals and almshouses have been turned into beautiful homes for the less prosperous, and if you will look in you will see the poorest table has abundance, and the smallest wardrobe luxury, and the harp, waiting to have its strings thrummed, leaning against the piano, waiting for its keys to be fingered."

And we believe what our escort says, for as we pass on we find health glowing in every cheek and springing in every step and articulating in every utterance, and you and I whisper to each other as our escort has his attention drawn to some new sunrise upon the morning sky, and we say, each to the other: "Who would believe that this is the world we lived in over 100 years ago? Look at those men and women we pass on the road! How improved the human race! Such beauty, such strength, such gracefulness, such geniality! Faces without the mark of one sorrow! Cheeks that seem never to have been wet by one tear! A race sublimated! A new world born!"

cs. towers of reformatory institutions, towers of Christian schools. Walk with me, and let us enter some of these temples. We enter, and I find that the music is in the major key and none of it in the minor. "Gloria In Excelsis" rising above "Gloria In Excelsis." Tremolo stop in the organ not so much used as the trumpet stop. More of Ariel than of Naomi. More chants than dirges.

But I say to our twenty-first century escort: "I cannot understand this. Have these worshippers no sorrows, or have they forgotten their sorrows?" Our escort responds: "Sorrows! Why, they had sorrows more than you could count, but by a divine illumination that the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries never enjoyed they understand the uses of sorrow and are comforted with a supernatural condolee such as previous centuries never experienced."

I ask again of the interpreter, "Has death been banished from the world?" The answer is, "No, but people die now only when the physical machinery is worn out, and that they realize it is time to go and that they are certainly and without doubt going into a world where they will be infinitely better off and are to live in a mansion that awaits their immediate occupancy." "But how was all this effected?" I ask our escort. Answer: "By floods of gospel power. You who lived in the nineteenth century never seen a revival of religion to be compared with what occurred in the latter part of the twentieth and the early part of the twenty-first century. The prophecy has been fulfilled that 'a nation will be born in a day' - that is, ten or twenty or forty million of people converted in 24 hours. In our church history we read of the great awakening of 1857, when five hundred thousand souls were saved. But that was only a drop of the coming showers that since then took into the kingdom of God everything between the Atlantic and the Pacific, between the Pyrenees and the Himalayas. The evils that good people in the nineteenth century were trying to destroy have been overcome by celestial forces. What human weaponry failed to accomplish has been done by omnipotent thunderbolts."

"O spirit of the twenty-first century, will you not show us something of the commercial life of your time?" He answers, "To-morrow I will show you all." And on the morrow he takes us through the great marts of trade and shows us the bargain makers and the shelves on which the goods lay and the tierces and hogheads in which they are contained. I notice that the fabrics are of better quality than anything I ever saw in our nineteenth century, for the factories are more skillful, and the wheels that turn and the looms that clack and the engines that rumble are driven by forces that were not a century ago discovered.

The prices of the fabrics indicate a reasonable profit, and the firms in the counting room and the clerks at the counter and the draymen at the doorway and the errand boy on his rounds and the messenger who brings the mail and the men who open the store in the morning as well as those who close it at night all look as if they were satisfied and well treated. No swallowing up of small houses, no ruinous underselling, until those in the same line are bankrupt and then the prices lifted, no unnecessary assignment to default creditors, no over-drawing of accounts, no abscondings, no sharp practice, no snap judgments, but the manufacturer right in his dealings with the wholesaler, and the wholesaler with the retailer, and the retailer with the customer.

"But what is yonder row of buildings, majestic for architecture?" The spirit of the twenty-first century says, "Those are our legislative halls and places of public trust, and if you would like it I will show you the political circles, the modes of preferment, the styles of election, the character of public men in this century." "Thank you," I reply. "I can easily understand how gospelization would improve individual life and social life, and commercial life, but I would like to see what it can do for political life." "Let me tell you," says the spirit of the twenty-first century, "that I have read about political chicanery and corruption of more than 100 years ago - lived here - but the low political caucus has gone from the face of the earth, and the stuffed ballot box, and the bribery by money and by promise of office, and the jobs got through legislatures and congresses by lobbyists."

As in company with our escort we pass down from the heights on which these buildings stand I see a dismounted cannon planted on the side of the hill, and I go to examine it, and I read the inscription, cut in letters of bronze: "This is the last gun that was fired in the last battle of the last war that will ever be fought. Presented by the last regiment of war just disbanding. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will to men." Then I look up, and our escort says: "Do you see that large structure on our right? That was a fortress, but now it is a college, and instead of guns aiming out of the port holes are looking the students of a higher literature and a wiser science and a grander civilization than the world ever before imagined. And those students are taught by a professorate of men as renowned for piety as for science. Archaeologist's hammer and geologist's crowbar and chemist's laboratory and explorer's journey have joined in a confirmation of the truth of the Holy Scriptures until there is not an unbeliever in all the earth. The astronomer through his telescope has seen the morning star of the Redeemer, and the geologist has found the Rock of Ages, and the geometrician has demonstrated that heaven is the city which lieth four square, and the length and the breadth and the height of it are equal."

there is no God' was buried half a century ago without any liturgical service."

"Well," I say to our escort, "where are Tom Paine's 'Age of Reason' and Ingersoll's 'Mistakes of Moses' and David Hume's and Voltaire's celebrated tirades against the Bible?" "I never heard of them," says our escort. "What are you talking about? A bigger bonfire of books than that which in apostolic times was kindled in the streets of Ephesus was lighted in all our cities and the corrupt literature of the world turned into ashes many, many years ago. I saw the last leaf curl up in the flame and scatter."

In response to my question as to what had wrought all this change - obliterated all the evil and fully inaugurated all the good - our escort, the spirit of the twenty-first century, tells me that gospelization had directly or indirectly done it. It was a practical gospel that not only changed the heart, but made the man honest. A practical religion which did not expend all its energy in singing, "Fly abroad, thou mighty gospel," but gave something to make it fly.

The good work was helped on by the fact that it became a general habit among millionaires and multimillionaires to provide churches and schools and institutions of mercy, not to be built after the testators were dead, but built so that they might be present at the laying of the cornerstone and at the dedication and leave less inducement for the heirs-at-law to prove in orphan's court that when the testators made their last will and testament they were crazy. The telegraphic wires in the air and the cables under the sea thrill with Christian invitation. Phonographs stand in every neighborhood. The 5,000,000,000 of the world's inhabitants in that century are 5,000,000,000 disciples.

"But," I say to our escort, the spirit of the twenty-first century, "you have shown us much, but what about international conditions? When we lived on earth, it was a century that bled with Marengo and Chalons and Lodi Bridge and Lucknow and Solferino and Leipsic and Waterloo and San Juan." Our escort replies, "Come with me to this building of white marble and glittering dome." As we pass up and on we are taken into a room where the mightiest and best representatives of all nations are assembled to settle international controversies. As we enter I hear the presiding officer opening the council of arbitration, reading the second chapter of Isaiah: "They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." Questions which in our long past nineteenth century caused quarrel and bloodshed, as when Germany and France were deciding about Alsace and Lorraine, as when the United States and Spain were deciding about Cuba - such questions in this twenty-first century settled in five minutes, one drop of ink doing more than once could have been accomplished by a river of blood.

But we cannot stay long in this hall of arbitration, for it is almost time for us to retrace our way heavenward. This voluntary exile must soon end. And, passing out of this hall of arbitration, we go through a national museum, where we are shown among the curiosities an English rifle, a howitzer, a Hotchkiss shell, an ambulance - curiosities to that age, but, alas! no curiosity to us of the nineteenth century, for some of our own kindred went down under their stroke or were carried off the field by those wheels.

"But," I say to our escort, and you and I say to each other, "We must go home now, back again to heaven. We have stayed long enough on this terrestrial visitation to see that all the best things foretold in the Scriptures and which we read during our earthly residence have come to pass, and all the Davidic, Solomonian and Paulinian and Johannean prophecies have been fulfilled, and that the earth, instead of being a ghastly failure, is the mightiest success in the universe. A star redeemed. A planet rescued! A world saved! It started with a garden, and it is going to close with a garden. Farewell, spirit of the twenty-first century! Thanks for your guidance! We can stay no longer away from the dogologies that never end, in temples never closed, in a report that the immortals around the throne of the transformations we have seen, the victories of truth on land and sea, the hemispheres irradiated, and Christ on the throne of earth, as he is on the throne of heaven."

"In that world we have just visited the deserts are all bloom, and the wildernesses are bright with fountains. Sin is extirpated. Crime is reformed. Disease is cured. The race is emancipated. The earth is full of the knowledge of God, as the waters cover the sea." The redeemed of the Lord have come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads. "The Lord God Omnipotent reigneth, and the Kingdoms of the world have become the kingdoms of our Lord Jesus Christ." Let the harpers of heaven strike the glad tidings from the strings of their harps, and the trumpeters put them in the mouth of their trumpets, and the orchestras roll them into the grand march of the eternities, and all the cathedral towers of the great capital of the universe chime them all over heaven."

But often you and I, who were companions in that expedition from heaven to earth, seated on the green bank of the river that rolls through the paradise of God, will talk over the scenes we witnessed in that parenthesis of heavenly bliss, in that vacation from the skies, in our terrestrial visitation - we who were early residents in the nineteenth century, escorted by the spirit of the twenty-first century, when we saw what my text describes as "a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness." "Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen."

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