

THE TALMAGE SERMON

"A SERAPHIC DIET" THE SUBJECT LAST SUNDAY.

The Text Being Selected from Psalms 78:13: "Man Did Eat Angel's Food"—The Ecstatic State in Which We Forget the Necessity for Earthly Food.



O M E W H A T risky would be the undertaking to tell just what was the manna that fell to the Israelites in the wilderness; of what it was made and who made it. The manna was called angels' food, but why so called? Was it because it came from the place where angels live; or because angels compounded it; or because angels did eat it; or because it was good enough for angels? On what crystal plate was it carried to the door of heaven, and then thrown out? How did it taste? We are told there was in it something like honey, but if the saccharine taste in it had been too strong, many would not have liked it, and so it may have had a commanding of flavors—this delicacy of the skies. It must have been nutritious for a nation lived on it forty years. It must have been healthful, for it has been so inspiringly applauded. It must have been abundant, because it dismissed the necessity of a surer for a great army. Each person had a ration of three-quarters day allowed to him, and so fifteen million pounds were necessary every week. This were the times of which my text speaks, when "man did eat angels' food." If the good Lord, who had helped me so often, will help me now, I will first tell you what angels' food, and then how we may get some of it for ourselves. In our mortal state we must have for nutrition and digestion, and assimilation, the products of the earth. Corporeality, as well as mentality, and spirituality, characterize us. The style of dress is much to do with our well-being. Light and frosty food taken exclusively results in weak muscle and semi-invalidism. The taking of too much animal food produces sensuality. Vegetarianism ranks. A reasonable selection of the fruits and the solid ordinary produce produces spiritual stamina.

But we have all occasionally been in a static state where we forgot the necessity of earthly food. We were fed by love, by anticipations, by discoveries, by companionships that dwindled the dining hour into insignificance, and made the pleasures of the table stupid and uninspiring. There have been cases where from seemingly invisible sources the human body has been maintained, as in the remarkable case of our invalid and Christian neighbor, Mollie Fanher, known throughout the medical and Christian world for that she was seven weeks without earthly food, fed and sustained on heavenly visions. Our beloved Dr. Beaconsfield Prime, editor and theologian, recorded the words concerning this girl: Prof. West, the great scientist, marvelled over it, and Willard Parker, of world wide fame in surgery, threw up his hands in amazement at it. There are times in all our lives when the soul asserts itself, and says to the body, "Hush! Stand back!" Stand down!

I am at a banquet where no chalice gladdens, and no candle smoke, and no clattery implements clatter. I am feeding on that which no human hand has baked. I am eating "angels' food." If you have never been in such an exalted state, I exhort you to understand the thrilling and glorious suggestiveness of my text when it says, "Man did eat angels' food."

Now, what do the supernaturals live on? They experience none of the demands of corporeality, and have no hindrance or environment in the shape of bone and muscle, and flesh, and hence that which may delectate our palate, or invigorate our poor, dying frames would be of no use to them. But they have a food of their own. My text says so. There may be other courses of food in the heavenly menu that I am not aware of, but I know of five or six styles of food, always on celestial tables, when cherubim, and seraphim, and archangels gather for heavenly repast, the mystery of redemption; celestialized music; the heavenly pictures; sublime and eloquent, eternal enterprises; saintly association; divine companionship; celebrative gladness. There is one subject that excites the curiosity and insatiables of all those angels. St. Peter says, "What thing the angels desire to look into?" That is why Christ exchanged a palace for a barn! Why did he drop a scepter from his right hand to take a spear into his left side? Why quit the anthem of the worshipping heavens to hear the crooning of a weary mother's voice? Was a straw better than a garment? "Could it not have been done in some other way?" says angel the first. "Was the human race worth such a sacrifice?" says angel the second. "How could heaven get along without him for thirty-three years?" says angel the third. "Through that assassination may sinful man rise into our eternal companionship," says angel the fourth. And then they all bend toward each other and talk about it, and guess about it, and try to fathom it, and prophesy concerning it. But the subject is too big, and they only nibble at it. They only break off a piece of it. They only taste it. They just dip into it. And then one angel cries: "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain!" And another says, "Inscrutable!" And another says, "Past finding out!" And another says, "Almighty!" And then they all fill their cups of gold with the "new wine of the kingdom." Unlike the beakers of earth, which poison, these glow with immortal health, the wine pressed from the grapes of the heavenly Eshcol, and they all drink to the memory of manger and cross, shattered sepulchre and Olivet ascension. Oh, that rapturous, inspiring, transporting theme of the world's ransom! That makes angels' food. The taking of that food gives stronger pulse to their gladness; adds several mornings of radiance to their foreheads; gives a wider circle to the sweep of their wings on mission intercession. Some of the crumbs of that angels' food fall all around our wilderness camp to-day, and we feel like crying with Paul, "Oh, the depth of the riches, both of the wisdom and knowledge of God!" or with expiring Stephen, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!" or with many an entranced soul, "None but Christ! None but Christ!" Pass around this angels' food. "Because then art thou warm, and carry it through all these aisles. Climb,

with it through all these galleries. Take it among all the hovels, as well as among all the palaces of the great town. Give all nations a taste of this angels' food."

Now, in the emerald palace of heaven, let the cup-bearers and servants of the King remove this course from the banquet, and bring on another course of angels' food, which is Celestial Music. You and I have seen at some concert or oratorio a whole assemblage to whom the music was a feast. Never anything that they took in at the lips of the mouth was so delightful to their taste as that which they took in at the lips of the ear. I have seen, and you have seen people actually intoxicated with sweet sounds. Oratorios which are always too protracted for those of us who have not had our faculties cultivated in that direction, were never long enough for them; as at 11 o'clock at night the leader of the orchestra gave the three taps of his baton to again start the music, they were as fresh and alert as when three hours before, at 8 o'clock, the curtain first lifted. Music to them is food for body, food for mind, and food for soul. From what I read in my Bible, I think celestialized music will make up a large part of angels' food. Why do I say "celestialized music"? Because though music may have been born in heaven, it had not all its charms until it came to earth and took a baptism of tears. Since then it has had a pathos and a tenderness that it could not otherwise have possessed. It had to pass under the shadows, and over stormy seas, and weep at sepulchres, and to be hummed as lullaby over the cradle of sick children, before it could mount to its present altitude of heavenly power. No organ on earth would be complete without the "Tremolo," and the stop, "Vox Humana." And no music of heaven would be complete without the "Tremolo" of earthly sorrow comforted, and the "Vox Humana" of earthly sympathies glorified. Just take up the New Testament and find it notes-book of celestialized music. It says Jesus sang a hymn when he went to the Mount of Olives, and if he could sing on earth with Bethlehem's humiliation close around him, and sworn enemies close on both sides of him, and the tempests of earth gathering just before him, he could suppose he sings in heaven. Eve and Satan sing in midnight one person, and do you not suppose that new song on the dolorous summits? What in the harps, and trumpets, and bells of Revelation suggest, if not music? What would the millions of good singers and players upon instruments who took part in earthly worship do in heaven without music? Why, the mansions ring with it. The great halls of eternity echo with it. The worship of unnumbered hosts is enwrapped with it. It will be the only art of earth that will have enough elasticity and strength to lead the grave and take possession of heaven. Sculpture will hallow the side of the grave, because it clearly conveys to the forms of those who in heaven will be re-constructed, and what would we stand in the presence of the resurrected original? Painting will hallow the side of the grave, because the colors of earth would be no fit mate for heaven, and what use to have pictured on canvas the scenes which shall be described to us by those who were the participants? One of the singular and sublimous about the "Last Supper" better than Titian, with mighty touch, set it up in art gallery. The plainest song by tongue will deserve the last judgment better than Michael Angelo with an pencil, put it upon the ceiling of the Vatican. Architecture will hallow the side of the grave, for what use would there be for architects' compass and square in that city which is already built and garnished until nothing can be added, all the Tuilleries, and Windsor Castle, and St. Clouds of the earth will appear equaling the humbler residences, all the St. Pauls, and St. Peters, and St. Isaacs, and St. Sophies of the earth built into one cathedral, not equaling the Heavenly Temple. But music will pass right on, right up, and right in, and millions in heaven will acknowledge that, under God, she was the chief cause of our salvation. Oh, I would like to be present when the great Christian singers and the great Christian players of all the ages shall congregate in heaven. Of course they must, like all the rest of us, be cleaned and robed by the hand of the Lamb. Alas! that some of the great artists of sweet sound have been as distinguished for profligacy as for the way they warbled, or sang, or played the keyboard, or tried the organ pedal. Some who have been distinguished basses, and sopranos, and prima donnas on earth, I fear will never sing the song of Moses and the Lamb, or put the lip of the trumpet with sounds of victory before the thrones. But some of the masters who charmed us here will sing more mightily than ever in heaven. Great Music Hall of Eternity! Any man and I be there some day to ascertain when the "Hallelujah Chorus" is sung. As on earth there have been too many made up of other harmonies, a strain of music from this creation, and a strain of music from that creation, and a bar from this, and a bar from that, but one great tune or theme, into which all the others were pressed as rivers into a sea, so it may be given to the mightiest soul in the heavenly world to gather something from all the sacred songs we have sung on earth or which have been sung in all the ages, and roll them on in eternal symphony; but the one great theme, and the one overmastering tone that shall carry all before it, and uplift all heaven from central throne to loftiest gate of pearl, and to highest cataract of note, will be, "Unto Him who washed us from our sins, in His own blood, and made me kings and priests unto God, and the Lamb to His plenary! That will be mighty enough for all heaven to feed on. That will be a banquet for immortals. That will be an angel's food."

Now, in the emerald palace of heaven, let the cup-bearers and servants of the King remove this course from the banquet, and bring on another course of angels' food—the last course, and the best; the dessert; the culmination of the feast, which is celebrative gladness. You and I have known people who prided themselves on never getting excited. You have cultivated the phlegmatic. You never saw them cry; you never heard them in a burst of laughter. They are monotonous, and to me intolerable. I am afraid of a man or a woman that cannot cry; I am afraid of a man or a woman who cannot laugh. Christ says in the book of Ecclesiastes that such people are to him nauseating, and cause regurgitation, chevivation, and rapid growth. "Because then art thou warm, and carry it through all these aisles. Climb,

out of my mouth." But the angels in heaven have no stolidity or unresponsiveness. There is one thing that agitates them into holy warmth. We know that absolutely. If their harp be hung up on the panels of amethyst, they take it down, and with deft fingers pull from among the strings a canticle. They run in to their neighbors on the same golden street, and tell the good news. If Mary has there cymbals anything like those with which she performed on the banks of the Red Sea, she claps them in triumph, and there is a festal table spread, and the best of the angels' food is set on it. When is it? It is when a man or woman down in the world who was all wrong, by the grace of God is made all right. (Luke 15:10.) "There is God in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repented." Why are they so happily agitated? Because they know what a tremendous thing it is to turn clear around from the wrong, and take the right road. It is because they know the difference between swine's trough with nothing but husks, and a king's banquet with angels' food. It is because they know the infinite, the everlasting difference between down and up. And then, their festivity is catching. If we hear the bells of a city ring, we say: "What is that for?" If we hear rolling out from an auditorium the sound of full orchestra, we say, "What is happening here?" And when the angels of God take on jubilation over a case of earthly repentance, your friends in heaven will say, "What new thing has happened? Why full diapason?" Why the chime from the oldest towers of eternity?" The fact is, my hearers, there are people in heaven who would like to hear from you. Your children there are wondering when father and mother will come into the Kingdom, and with more glee than they ever danced in the hallway at your coming home at eventide, they will dance the floor of the heavenly mansion at the bidding of father and mother saved. Beside that, the old folks want to hear from you. They are standing at the head of the celestial stairs waiting for the news that their prayers have been answered, and that you are coming on to take from their lips a kiss better than that which now they throw you. Calling you by your first name, as they always did, they are talking about you and saying: "There is our son," or, "There is our daughter down in that world of struggle, battling, suffering, sinning, weeping. Why can they not see that Christ is the only one who can help, and comfort, and save us?"

That is what they are saying about you. And if you will this hour in one prayer of surrender that will not take more than a second to make, decide then, swifter than telegraphic dispatch the news would reach them, and angels of God who never fell would join your glorified kindred in celebration, and the caterers of heaven would do their best, and saints and seraphim by side would take angels' food. Glory be to God for such a possibility! Oh, that moment there might be a road for heaven!

The Spirit and the bride say, Come, Rejoicing saints reecho. Come! Who faints, who thirsts, who will, may come;

Thy Savior bids thee come.

A Happy Reunion

A remarkable romance in real life has just been rounded off in Oregon. About twenty-nine years ago, James Hard went to work for a farmer named Arnold, in Jackson county, Oregon, and a few months later married Arnold's stepdaughter. Soon after, trouble arose between the two men. Arnold took his daughter away from Hard, and when Hard went after her the two men quarreled, and the result was Arnold was shot dead and Hard fled the state. His wife secured a divorce and remarried. Her husband died a few years ago. Three years ago, Hard returned to Jackson county, was recognized, arrested for the murder of Arnold, and sent to the penitentiary for a long term. During his trial, his former wife visited him frequently, the old love revisited, and she worked her hardest to secure his release. She circulated a petition for his pardon, and after two years her efforts were successful and Hard was released. Recently the two were reunited in marriage near their first home.

Heretics of Medical Men.

Doctors are among the most self-sacrificing men in the world. They often pit themselves in danger while in attendance upon those afflicted with infectious or contagious diseases. One can always find a doctor who will take any case, however dangerous it may be to himself. Many a doctor risks his life in the practice of his profession. Many a one has fallen martyr to duty. Two years ago, when cholera threatened this city, scores upon scores of doctors and medical students hastened to offer their services in the hospitals. Let plague come upon any place, and there is rarely ever a lack of doctors to contend with it. If few of them were not desirous of attending the Chinese leper who recently died here, it was because his case was hopeless from the first, and because the disease might be spread by any one who came in contact with him; yet this leper was not left without medical care. The community honors the medical profession, who risk their lives for the sake of the community.

The Deadly Street-Car Strap.

A Pittsburger went to his physician not long ago complaining of a dull ache in his left arm. He had never had rheumatism, but thought his pain must come from that malady. After describing it, the doctor said: "You ride to and from your office in the cable car, don't you?" "Yes." "You seldom get a seat?" "True enough." "You have formed the habit of holding to the strap with your left hand?" "Since you mention it, I know that is so, though I had not thought of it." "That is the cause of the pain you feel. For an hour a day, more or less, your arm is held in an unnatural upturned position, and it has begun to tell upon you. A cure can only be effected by ceasing to support yourself by hanging to a strap."

Strange Case of Rapid Growth.

A remarkable case of rapid growth has recently been investigated by the French Academie des Sciences. A boy at the age of five began to grow a beard and to change his voice; he seemed a man of thirty. At six years old he was four feet, and strong enough to lift and carry on his back bags of grain weighing two hundred pounds. At ten his hair and beard turned gray; at ten his teeth fell out and his hands and legs became palsied, and at twelve he died.

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(Bulletin 13, April 1904, p. 593.)

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The Purgatory of the Islamites.

The "Purgatory" idea is not original with the various Christian sects, as is generally supposed, but was known to many Oriental religions centuries before the beginning of our era. It has survived to a certain extent in Persia, Arabia and Asia Minor in general, especially among the Jafarites and the Atzendizes, branch sects of Islamism. To them the purgatory idea is conveyed and expressed by the words Al Araf. This oriental "place of preparation" is supposed to be located half way between heaven and hell, and, according to the popular idea, is first hot and then cold, going through the changes of extremes in a very short period of time. The Mohammedans say that their prophet is the only person who has ever passed directly from earth to heaven without first going through a preparatory course in Al Araf.

Cancer Can Not Be Cured

WITH LOCAL APPLICATIONS, as they do not reach the seat of the disease. Cancer is a blight or constitutional disease, and in order to cure it you must take internal remedies. Hall's Catarrh Powder is taken internally, and acts directly on the blood and mucous surfaces. Hall's Catarrh Powder is not a quick medicine. It was prescribed by one of the best physicians in this country for years, and is a regular prescription. It is composed of the best tonics known, combined with the best blood purifiers, acting directly on the mucous surfaces. The perfect combination of the two ingredients is what produces such wonderful results in curing Catarrh. Send for testimonials, free.

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English Importation of Horses.

According to an English authority, no fewer than 200,000 horses have been imported into England for hunting and harness purposes during the last twelve years.

Home-Seekers' Excursion.

The Chicago Great Western Railway will sell excursion tickets to western and southern points February 13, March 5 and April 2, 1905, at one regular first-class fare plus \$2.00 for the round trip. Tickets good for twenty (20) days from date of purchase.

Further information regarding stopovers, etc., will be given on application to any ticket agent of this company, or
F. H. LORD, G. P. & T. A.,
Chicago, Ill.

A cedar tree, 407 feet in height, and 70 feet in circumference at the base, was recently felled near Ocosta, Wash. The first limb sprang 60 feet from the base, and this limb was seven feet in diameter.

I Believe Piso's Cure for Consumption Saved my boy's life last summer.—Mrs. ALLIE DOUGLAS, LeRoy, Mich., Oct. 22, '94.

A frying pan with legs about six inches long is among the curios recovered at Herculanum. It belonged to Cicilla, who had scratched her name on the handle.

Let your name be engraved on a pattern of advertising paper, and we will send it to you. WE ARE EXPANDING WITH DESIRE.

There was but one thing to do, whether we could afford every cent to the orders and demands and devote every energy to filling the orders with the greatest possible value, and still have a considerable profit over cost.

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