

TALMAGE'S SERMON.

"GOOD AND BAD RECREATIONS," LAST SUNDAY'S SUBJECT.

"And It Come to Pass, When Their Hearts Were Merry, that They Said, Call for Samson, that He May Make Us Sport."—Judges xvi, 25.



HERE were three thousand people assembled in the temple of Dagon. They had come to make sport of eyeless Samson. They were all ready for the entertainment. They began to clap and pound, impatient for the amusement to begin, and they cried, "Fetch him out, fetch him out!" Yonder I see the blind old giant coming, led by the hand of a child into the very midst of the temple. At his first appearance there goes up a shout of laughter and derision. The blind old giant pretends he is tired, and wants to rest himself against the pillars of the house; so he says to the lad who leads him, "Show me where the main pillars are!" The lad does so. Then the strong man puts his right hand on one pillar and his left hand on another pillar, and, with the mightiest push that mortal ever made, throws himself forward until the whole house comes down in thunderous crash, grinding the audience like grapes in a wine-press. "And so it came to pass, when their hearts were merry, that they said, Call for Samson, that he may make us sport. And they called for Samson out of the prison-house; and he made them sport."

In other words, there are amusements that are destructive, and bring down disaster and death upon the heads of those who practice them. While they laugh and cheer, they die. The three thousand who perished that day in Gaza, are as nothing compared with the tens of thousands who have been destroyed by sinful amusements. But my first text implies that there is a lawful use of the world, as well as an unlawful abuse of it, and the difference between the man Christian and the man un-Christian is, that in the former case the man masters the world, while in the latter case the world masters him. For whom did God make this grand and beautiful world? For whom this wonderful expenditure of color, this gracefulness of line, this mosaic of the ground, this fresco of the sky, this glowing fruitage of orchard and vineyard, this full orchestra of the tempest, in which the tree branches flute, and the winds trumpet, and the thunders drum, and all the splendors of earth and sky come clashing their cymbals? For whom did God spring the arched bridge of colors resting upon buttresses of broken storm-cloud? For whom did he gather the upholstery of fire around the window of the setting sun? For all men; but more especially for his own dear children.

If you build a large mansion, and spread a great feast after it, to celebrate the completion of the structure, do you allow strangers to come in and occupy the place, while you thrust your own children in the kitchen, or the barn, or the fields? Oh, no! You say, "I am very glad to see strangers in my mansion, but my own sons and daughters shall have the first right there." Now, God has built this grand mansion of a world, and he has spread a glorious feast in it, and while those who are strangers to his grace may come in, I think that God especially intends to give the advantage to his own children—those who are the sons and daughters of the Lord Almighty, those who through grace can look up and say, "Alas, Father." You cannot make me believe that God gives more advantages to the world than he gives to the church bought by his own blood. If, therefore, people of the world have looked with dolorous sympathy upon those who make profession of religion and have said, "These new converts are going down into privation and into hardship. Why did they not tarry a little longer in the world, and have some of its enjoyments and amusements and recreations?"—I say to such men of the world, "You are greatly mistaken," and before I get through I will show that those people who stay out of the kingdom of God have the hardships and self-denials, while those who come in have the joys and satisfactions.

In the name of the King of heaven and earth, I serve a writ of ejectment upon all the sinful and polluted who have squatted on the domain of earthly pleasure as though it belonged to them, while I claim, in behalf of the good and the pure and the true, the eternal inheritance which God has given them. Hitherto, Christian philanthropists, clerical and lay, have busied themselves chiefly in denouncing sinful recreations; but I feel we have no right to stand before men and women in whose hearts there is a desire for recreation amounting to positive necessity, denouncing sins and that and the other thing, when we do not propose to give them something better. God helping me and with reference to my last account, I shall enter upon a sphere not usual in sermoneering, but a subject which I think ought to be presented at this time. I propose now to lay before you some of the recreations which are not only innocent, but positively helpful and advantageous.

In the first place, I commend, among indoor recreations, music—vocal and instrumental. Among the first things created was the bird, so that the earth might have music at the start. This world, which began with so sweet a serenade, is finally to be demolished amidst the ringing blasts of the archangel's trumpet, so that as there was

music at the start, there shall be music at the close. While this heavenly art has often been dragged into the uses of superstition and dissipation, we all know it may be the means of high moral culture. Oh, it is a grand thing to have our children brought up amidst the sound of cultured voices, and amidst the melody of musical instruments.

There is in this art an indescribable fascination for the household. Let all those families who have the means to afford it, have flute, or harp, or piano, or organ. As soon as the hand is large enough to compass the keys, teach it how to pick out the melody. Let all our young men try this heavenly art upon their nature. Those who have gone into it fully have found in it illimitable recreation and amusement. Dark days, stormy nights, seasons of sickness, business disasters, will do little toward depressing the soul which can gallop off over the musical keys, or soar in jubilant lay. It will cure pain. It will rest fatigue. It will quell passion. It will revive health. It will reclaim dissipation. It will strengthen the immortal soul. In the battle of Waterloo, Wellington saw that the Highlanders were falling back. He said, "What is the matter there?" He was told that the band of music had ceased playing, and he called up the pipers and ordered them to strike up an inspiring air; and no sooner did they strike the air than the Highlanders were rallied, and helped to win the day. Oh, ye who have been routed in the conflicts of life, try by the force of music to rally your scattered battalions.

I am glad to know that in our great cities there is hardly a night in which there are not concerts, where, with the best musical instruments and the sweetest voices, people may find entertainment. Patronize such entertainments when they are afforded you. Buy season tickets, if you can, for the "Philharmonic" and the "Handel and Haydn" societies. Feel that the dollar and a half or two dollars that you spend for the purpose of hearing an artist play or sing is a profitable investment. Let your academies of music roar with the acclamation of appreciative audiences assembled at the concert or the oratorio.

Still further, I commend, as worthy of their support, the gymnasium. This institution is gaining in favor every year, and I know of nothing more free from dissipation, or more calculated to recuperate the physical and mental energies. While there are a good many people who have employed this institution, there is a vast number who are ignorant of its excellences. There are men with cramped chests and weak sides and despondent spirits who through the gymnasium might be roused up to exuberance and exhilaration of life. There are many Christian people despondent from year to year, who might, through such an institution, be benefited in their spiritual relations. There are Christian people who seem to think that it is a good sign to be poorly; and because Richard Baxter and Robert Hall were invalids, they think that by the same sickness they may come to the same grandeur of character. I want to tell the Christian people of my congregation that God will hold you responsible for your invalidism if it is your fault, and when, through right exercise and prudence, you might be athletic and well. The effect of the body upon the soul you acknowledge. Put a man of mild disposition upon the animal diet of which the Indian partakes, and in a little while his blood will change its chemical proportions. It will become like unto the blood of the lion, or the tiger, or the bear, while his disposition will change, and become fierce and unrelenting. The body has a powerful effect upon the soul.

We shall have the smooth and grassy lawn, and we will call out people of all occupations and professions and ask them to join in the ball-player's sport. You will come back from these outdoor exercises and recreations with strength in your arm and color in your cheek and a flash in your eye and courage in your heart. In this great battle that is opening against the kingdom of darkness, we want not only a consecrated soul, but a strong arm and stout lungs and mighty muscle. I bless God that there are so many recreations that have not on them any taint of iniquity; recreations in which we may engage for the strengthening of the body, for the clearing of the intellect, for the illumination of the soul.

There is still another form of recreation which I recommend to you, and that is the pleasure of doing good. I have seen young men, weak and cross and sour and repelling in their disposition, who by one heavenly touch have awakened up and become blessed and buoyant, the ground under their feet and the sky over their heads breaking forth into music. "Oh," says some young man in the house to-day, "I should like that recreation above all others, but I have not the means." My dear brother, let us take an account of stock. You have a large estate, if you only realize it. Two hands. Two feet. You will have perhaps during the next year at least ten dollars for charitable contribution. You will have twenty-five hundred cheerful looks, if you want to employ them. You will have five thousand pleasant words if you want to speak them. Now what an amount that is to start with!

You go out to-morrow morning and you see a case of real destitution by the wayside. You give him two cents. The blind man hears the pennies rattle in his hat, and he says, "Thank you, sir; God bless you!" You pass down the street, trying to look indifferent; but you feel from the very depth of your soul a profound satisfaction that you made that man happy. You go on still farther, and find a poor boy with a wheelbarrow, trying to get it up on the curbstone. He fails in the attempt. You say, "Stand back, my lad; let me

try." You push it up on the curbstone for him and pass on. He wonders who that well-dressed man was that helped him. You did a kindness to the boy, but you did a great joy to your own soul. You will not get over it all the week.

On the street to-morrow morning, you will see a sick man passing along. "Ah," you say, "what can I do to make this man happy?" He certainly does not want money; he is not poor, but he is sick. Give him one of those twenty-five hundred cheerful looks that you have garnered up for the whole year. Look joy and hopefulness into his soul. It will thrill him through and there will be a reaction upon your own soul. Go a little farther on, you will come to the store of a friend who is embarrassed in business matters. You will go in and say, "What a fine store you have! I think business will brighten up, and you will have more custom after a while. I think there is coming a great prosperity to all the country. Good morning." You pass out. You have helped that young man, and you have helped yourself.

Colonel Gardiner, who sat with his elbow on a table, spread with all extravagant vlands, looking off at a dog on the rug, saying, "How I would like to change places with him; I be the dog and he be Col. Gardiner;" or, those two Moravian missionaries who wanted to go into the lazaretto for the sake of attending the sick, and they were told, "If you go in there, you will never come out. We never allow anyone to come out, for he would bring the contagion." Then they made their wills and went in, first to help the sick, and then to die. Which was the happier—Col. Gardiner, or the Moravian missionaries dying for others? Was it all sacrifice when the missionaries wanted to preach the Gospel to the negroes at the Barbadoes, and, being denied the privilege, sold themselves into slavery, standing side by side, and lying side by side, down in the very ditch of suffering. In order that they might bring those men up to life and God and heaven? Oh, there is a thrill in the joy of doing good. It is the most magnificent recreation to which a man ever put his hand, or his head, or his heart.

But, before closing, I want to impress upon you that mere secular entertainments are not a fit foundation for your soul to build on. I was reading of a woman who had gone all the rounds of sinful amusement, and she came to die. She said, "I will die to-night at six o'clock." "Oh," they said, "I guess not; you don't seem to be sick." "I shall die at six o'clock, and my soul will be lost. I know it will be lost. I have sinned away my day of grace." The noun came. They desired her to seek religious counsel. "Oh," she said, "it is of no use. My day is gone. I have been all the rounds of worldly pleasure, and it is too late. I will die to-night at six o'clock." The day wore away, and it came to four o'clock, and to five o'clock, and she cried out at five o'clock, "Destroying spirits, ye shall not have me yet; it is not six, it is not six!" The moments went by, and the shadows began to gather, and the clock struck six; and while it was striking her soul went. The last hour of our life will soon be here, and from that hour we will review this day's proceedings. It will be a solemn hour. If from our death-pillow we have to look back and see a life spent in sinful amusement, there will be a dart that will strike through our soul, sharper than the dagger with which Virginus slew his child. The memory of the past will make us quake like Macbeth. The iniquities and rioting through which we have passed will come upon us, weird and skeleton as Meg Merrilies. Death, the old Shylock, will demand and take the remaining pound of flesh and the remaining drop of blood; and upon our last opportunity for repentance and our last chance for heaven the curtain will forever drop.

Strength and Weakness. There is as much kill in selfishness as there is in poison. Love for God takes in everybody else.—Too many people make the mistake of belonging to church without belonging to Christ.—The devil makes every string pull toward the saloon, from hunger to politics.—Any kind of a sinner can be saved to-day who will quit his meanness and trust in Christ.—The sun has spots on it, and yet some people expect every church member to be perfect.—The man who is anxious to serve God can begin right away.—Whatever would have been wrong in Christ is wrong in any member of his church.—Sin would not be so deadly if the devil had to fight in an open field.—The man who is not doing his best for God is falling short of what God expects him to do.—Ram's Horn.

A Ray of Sunshine. "If anything unkind you hear about some one you know, my dear, Do not, I pray you, repeat When you that some one chance to meet: For such news has a leaden way Of clouding o'er a sunny day. But if you something pleasant hear About some one you know, my dear, Make haste—to make great haste 'twere well— To her or him the same to tell: For such news has a golden way Of lighting up a cloudy day."

The Growing Good of the World. The growing good of the world is partly dependent on historic acts, and that things are not so ill with you or me as they might have been is half owing to the number who lived faithfully a hidden life and rest in unvisited tombs.—George Eliot.

The International Character of Christian Endeavor is manifested anew by the fact that the British National Council has invited the International Convention of 1900 to meet in the city of London.

SENATOR H. A. DUPONT.

THE MAN WHO REPRESENTS DELAWARE IN THE SENATE.

Came of Good French Stock—The Duponts Came to the United States from France a Century Ago—Fled from Jacobin Persecutions.



OLONEL HENRY A. Dupont, of Delaware, had a majority report in his favor from the senate committee on privileges and elections. The democratic minority reported unfavorably. Notwithstanding the strong family history of republicanism behind him, it was asserted that Colonel Dupont had been a democrat and voted for Cleveland, but this strange matter had no effect whatever on the report of the committee. Mr. Dupont comes of splendid stock. He was born in 1819 and inherits his politics from his father. This father was Henry Dupont, who was born near Wilmington in 1812. The Duponts are derived from aristocratic blood. The elder was a son of Elenhere Irene de Pont de Nemours, of France, who sought refuge in the United States from Jacobin persecution in 1800, and founded the famous Dupont powder works on the Brandywine river in Delaware. Henry Dupont had a military education. After some earlier active service he was made aide-de-camp on the staff of General Cooper and was adjutant general of the state until 1861. He was a personal friend of Henry Clay, and after Lincoln's election was a staunch republican, bequeathing to his son his principles. Henry Dupont died in 1889 in Wilmington. Henry A. Dupont was elected United States senator at the close of the last Delaware legislature, but the democrats claimed that the president of the state

PRESIDENT STEYN.

The New Chief Magistrate of the Orange Free State.

Judge Steyn, who has recently been elected president of the Orange Free State, was chief justice of that country before his elevation to the office of the presidency. The position had been filled by the late F. W. Reitz. Judge Steyn's election is considered a Boer victory, as his candidacy was indorsed and promoted by President Kruger, of the Transvaal. Dr. Jameson and his raid into the South African republic had the sympathy of the outlanders, or noncitizens, of the Orange Free State. Steyn stood for the conservative or Boer interests, and his election shows the tide is flowing against British domination in that part of Africa. He is an able jurist, a good statesman and a strong man. The country over which he will rule is an independent Dutch republic in South Africa. On the south of it is Cape Colony, on the west Griqualand, the Transvaal on the north and Natal on the east. Its area is 48,326 square miles. The total population numbers 207,503, of whom nearly 50,000 are whites. The government consists of a president and a council appointed by the volksraad. The country is divided into nineteen



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PRESIDENTS OF CENTRAL AMERICAN REPUBLICS.



It is believed by many that the present revolutionary movement in certain of the republics of Central America will involve the entire country between Mexico and South America. It is also believed that the result will be the consolidation of all these states into one government. President Zelaya, of Nicaragua, is a liberal, and the rich conservatives, notwithstanding their recent expression of confidence in him, are known to be against him. An unsettled feeling pervades all Central America, and, judging by such information as can be gathered at this time, general revolution seems imminent. The present rulers of the five states which make up what is called Central

America are more or less well disposed to one another. They have all interesting personalities. The youngest is Rafael Iglesias, who was born thirty-two years ago in Costa Rica. He took his seat on May 8, 1894, as president of the republic. General Barrios, the president of Guatemala, went into power in 1892. President Policarpo Bonilla, of the Honduras state, was elected two years ago. President Zelaya, of Nicaragua, took his seat in 1893, and General Gutierrez, the president of Salvador, was intrusted with power two years ago. The situation is interesting—indeed, it threatens to become quite serious.—From Chicago Times-Herald.

Washington Notes. Senator Dominguez, acting minister from Argentina, makes a specialty of gathering antique pieces of furniture, and at his home has some exquisitely carved old chests and desks that were made in Spain hundreds of years ago. Some of his paintings are so old that they are dimmed by time's touch, but there is no price to be put on their value.

Mrs. Sheridan is keeping the arms of her famous husband, and his swords repose in a large glass case in her pretty home. Mrs. George B. McClellan, wife of the young congressman from New York, has the many swords belonging to General McClellan mounted in the library of her home. Mrs. Grant is keeping some sacred mementoes of the dead general, and so is Mrs. General John A. Logan, who has erected a large hall, in which all relating to her husband is preserved. One of our most prominent senators has a goodly array of canes from all the famous places in the country.

The Ohio's Bed. A prominent geologist who has been looking into the formation of the bed of the Ohio river forty-three miles below Pittsburg, says the old river bed is 300 feet above the present water level and he finds there stones of Canadian granite, whose nearest home is now on the Canadian side of Lake Ontario. In the glacial gravel he came across a rough arrowhead, which he attributes to the glacial period, perhaps 300,000 years ago.—Exchange.

Silk goods are said to take dyes more readily than any other fabrics.

Growing Beets.

(From the Farmers' Review.)

Chas. C. Cornett, Jefferson County, Indiana.—Beets grow well on any good garden soil, and the richer the better. The land should be plowed deeply, and if it be subsoiled, so much the better. This puts the soil in good condition for the drill. Drill in the seed in rows as early in the season as possible. Stable manure is our general fertilizer here, and we cultivate as we do almost any other farm crop that is drilled in. We are unable to give the name of the writer of the following: Beets should have a deep, rich, sandy loam, with clay subsoil. The land should be plowed in the fall and harrowed in the spring. For winter beets, we sow the first of June, about nine pounds of seed to the acre. We fertilize with barnyard manure. We plant in rows and occasionally cultivate between the rows. The rows are two and one-half feet apart, and the plants are thinned to six inches apart in the rows. We harvest in October, digging with a spade and then cutting off the tops. The greatest obstacle in raising the crop is harvesting them, it being a good deal of work to dig them with the spade. We utilize the crop here by feeding it to cattle. Beets should be thinned when young and kept free from weeds. Soak the seed for twenty-four hours in lukewarm water before planting.

C. B. Steward, Jasper County, Indiana.—Beets should be planted on deep loam, with gravel subsoil, or on land that is well drained. The land should be well manured in the fall and deeply plowed at that time, but not harrowed down. The harrowing should be done in the spring. When the crop is to be used for the fall market the seed should be put in about the 15th day of May, but where the beets are to be used for feeding purposes, June first is early enough. In planting, drill in the seeds about three inches apart, and thin as the plants grow. We use no fertilizer where the land is moderately rich. In cultivating, we use a garden horse plow, and a small harrow at first. As to time of harvesting, that will depend somewhat on the stock to which the beets are to be fed. If they are to go to the sheep we do not harvest till late in the fall, and then we plow them out. The greatest trouble with growing beets is to get them started and then keep them free from weeds. We raise our beets only for feeding to stock. The variety we raise is the large dark red, and we consider it good.

P. J. Barry, Polk County, Wisconsin.—Beets do well on a light, sandy loam, well manured. Plow in the spring early, dress with good stable manure and plow again. We sow the seed the first of May. We cultivate with a garden plow. We are not troubled with drouth so far as this crop is concerned. We pull the crop by the first of October, lay them in windrows for eight to ten days, and then put them in the root house, in boxes covered with sand very dry. We have good crops here, but they are not planted in large quantities.

T. W. Stanford, Kandiyohi County, Minnesota.—Beets do well here on a clay loam, with clay subsoil. I have tried no other soil. I plow deep in the fall and harrow in the spring. I plant the seed from the first to the 10th of May, or as soon as the soil will work well. I have had no experience sowing more than enough for family use. For fertilizer I use well-rotted barnyard manure. In cultivating I use one horse on a cultivator that runs about one inch deep, and cultivate all of my garden vegetables at the same time. There are no drouths here that injure the beet crop, but there is a small bug here that injures them when it is very dry. As I only raise beets in a small way, in harvesting I pull them with my left hand and cut off the tops with a knife held in my right hand. Our greatest obstacle here is the depredations of insects while the beet plants are quite small. In selling my beets, what I have to sell, I put them in sacks and take them to a market, which, however, is limited.

N. Richardson, Morrison County, Minnesota.—Beets do best should be on a clay subsoil, the top soil to be a mixture of sand and clay. The land will be good for beets if it has been first seeded to clover and timothy, and used for a pasture for two years at least. Then let sheep run on the pasture in place of cattle. Turn over the sod and pulverize well before planting in the spring. Plant the seed in the spring as soon as danger from frost is over. We do not use fertilizer on beets here, but use old pasture. We put the seeds in rows eighteen inches apart and from four to six inches apart in the rows. They are not affected by drouth if planted in proper soil, such as mentioned above, but on sandy land without a clay subsoil drouth affects them badly. Old land that has become exhausted and is very weedy is totally unfit to grow beets on. We harvest about October first, and use the crop to feed to cattle.

Raise Some Celery.—Every farmer that has the proper soil should raise a small patch of celery for the use of his family. It would not be advisable for a great many farmers to go into raising it for market because it requires special conditions to make it a commercial success. If you are not accustomed to raise it, study the matter up. The family will fully appreciate the delicacy this fall.

Variation in Ben Davis.—The Ben Davis apple varies in appearance and in salability according to the locality in which it is grown. This fruit when produced in Wisconsin and Iowa is not so desirable on the market as when grown in southern Missouri, Illinois and Indiana. It seems to require a longer season and more heat to grow it to perfection than some other varieties.

Give the hens some oil meal cake or even whole flaxseed. It will help them to pass in safety the season when green food is scarce. We believe the lives of a good many hens are saved in this way.