

TALMAGE'S SERMON.

"WHO WAS YOUR FATHER'S SUNDAY'S SUBJECT."

From the Text: "Whose Son Art Thou, Young Man?"—Hereditary Proclivity for Good or Evil.—David Versus Goliath.



EVER was there a more unequal fight than that between David and Goliath. David five feet high; Goliath ten feet high; Goliath a shepherd boy, brought up amid rural scenes; Goliath a warrior by profession, Goliath a mountain of bragado; David a marvel of humility. Goliath armed with an iron spear; David armed with a sling with smooth stones from the brook. But you are not to despise these latter weapons. There was a regiment of slingers in the Assyrian army and a regiment of slingers in the Egyptian army, and they made terrible execution, and they could cast a stone with as much accuracy and force as now can be sent with shot or shell. The Greeks in their army had slingers who would throw leaden plummet inscribed with the irritating words: "Take this!" So it was a mighty weapon David employed in that famous combat. A Jewish rabbi says that the probability is that Goliath was in such contempt for David that in a paroxysm of laughter he threw his head back and his helmet fell off, and David saw the uncovered forehead, and his opportunity had come, and taking this sling and swinging it around his head two or three times, and aiming it at that uncovered forehead, crashed it in like an egg-shell. The battle over, behold the tableau: King Saul sitting, little David standing, his fingers clutched into the hair of the decapitated Goliath. As Saul sees David gazing thus holding in his hand the ghastly, reeking, starting trophy, evidence of the complete victory over God's enemies, the king wonders what parentage was honored by such heroism, and in my text he asks David his pedigree, "Whose son art thou, thou young man?" The king saw what you and I see, that this question of heredity is a mighty question. The longer I live the more I believe in blood—good blood, bad blood, proud blood, humble blood, honest blood, thieving blood, heroic blood, cowardly blood. The tendency may skip a generation or two, but it is sure to come out, as in a little child you sometimes see a similarity to a great-grandfather whose picture hangs on the wall. That the physical and moral qualities are inherited is patent to any one who keeps his eyes open. The similarity is so striking sometimes as to be amusing. Great families, regal or literary, are apt to have the characteristics all down through the generations, and what is more perceptible in such families may be seen on a smaller scale in all families. A thousand years have no power to obliterate the difference. The large lip of the House of Austria is seen in all the generations, and is called the Hapsburg lip. The House of Stuart always means in all generations cruelty and bigotry and sensuality: Witness Queen of Scots, Witness Charles I. and Charles II. Witness James I. and James II., and all the other scoundrels of that line. Scottish blood means persistence, English blood means reverence for the ancient, Welsh blood means religiosity, Danish blood means fondness for the sea, Indian blood means roaming disposition, Celtic blood means ferocity, Roman blood means conquest. The Jewish facility for accumulation you may trace clear back to Abraham, of whom the Bible says "he was rich in silver and gold and cattle," and to Isaac and Jacob, who had the same characteristics. Some families are characterized by longevity, and they have a tenacity of life positively Methuselah. Others are characterized by Goliathian stature, and you can see it for one generation, two generations, five generations, in all the generations. Vigorous theology runs down in the line of the Alexanders. Tragedy runs on in the family of the Kembles. Literature runs on in the line of the Trollopes. Philanthropy runs on in the line of the Wilberforeses. Statesmanship runs on in the line of the Adameses. You see these peculiarities in all generations. Henry and Catharine of Navarre religious, all their families religious. The celebrated family of the Cassinis, all mathematicians. The celebrated family of the Medici, grandfather, son and Catharine, all remarkable for keen intellect. The celebrated family of Gustave Adolphus, all warriors. This law of heredity asserts itself without reference to social or political condition, for you sometimes find the ignoble in high place and the honorable in obscure place. A descendant of Edward I. a toll-gatherer. A descendant of Edward III. a door-keeper. A descendant of the Duke of Northumberland, a trunk-maker. Some of the mightiest families of England are extinct, while some of those most honored in the peerage go back to an ancestry of hard knuckles and rough exterior. This law of heredity is entirely independent of social or political conditions. Then you find avarice and jealousy and sensuality and fraud having full swing in some families. The violent temper of Frederick William is the inheritance of Frederick the Great. It is not a theory founded by worldly philosophy, but by divine authority. Do you not remember how the Bible speaks of a chosen generation, of the generation of the righteous, of the generation of vipers, of an untoward generation, of a stubborn gen-

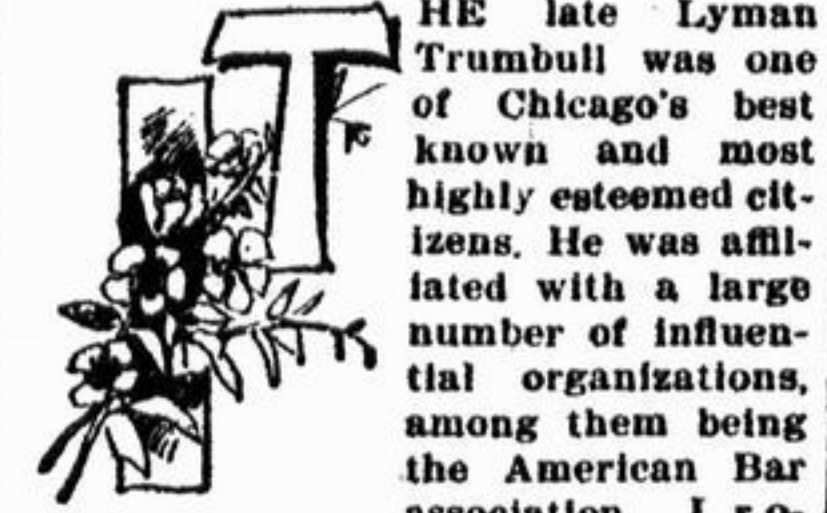
eration, of the iniquity of the fathers, visited upon the children unto the third and fourth generation? So that the text comes today with the force of a projectile hurled from mightiest catapult. "Whose son art thou, thou young man?" Well, says some one, "that theory discharges me from all responsibility. Born of sanctified parents, we are bound to be good, and we cannot help ourselves. Born of unrighteous parentage, we are bound to be evil, and we cannot help ourselves." Two inaccuracies. As much as if you should say, "The centrifugal force in nature has a tendency to bring everything to the center, and therefore all come to the center. The centrifugal force in nature has a tendency to throw everything to the periphery, and therefore everything will go out to the periphery." You know as well as I know that you can make the centrifugal force overcome the centrifugal, and you can make the centrifugal overcome the centripetal. As when there is a mighty tide of good in a family that may be overcome by determination to evil, as in the case of Aaron Burr, the libertine, who had for father President Burr, the consecrated; as in the case of Pierrepont Edwards, the scourge of New York society eighty years ago, who had a Christian ancestry, while, on the other hand, some of the best men and women of this day are those who have come of an ancestry of which it would not be courteous to speak in their presence. The practical and useful object of this sermon is to show you that if you come of a Christian ancestry, then you are solemnly bound to preserve and develop the glorious inheritance. . . . First, I accost all those who are descended of a Christian ancestry. I do not ask if your parents were perfect. There are no perfect people now, and I do not suppose there were any perfect people then. Perhaps there was sometimes too much blood in their eye when they chastised you. But from what I know of you, you got no more than you deserved, and perhaps a little more chastisement would have been salutary. But you are willing to acknowledge, I think, that they wanted to do right. From what you overheard in conversations, and from what you saw at the family altar and at neighborhood obsequies, you know that they had invited God into their heart and their life. There was something that sustained those old people supernaturally. You have no doubt about their destiny. You expect if you ever get to heaven to meet them as you expect to meet the Lord Jesus Christ. That earthly association has been a charm for you. There was a time when you got right up from a house of iniquity and walked out into the fresh air because you thought your mother was looking at you. You have never been very happy in sin because of a sweet old face that would present itself. Tremulous voices from the past accosted you until they were seemingly audible, and you looked around to see who spoke. There was an estate not mentioned in the last will and testament, a vast estate of prayer and holy example and Christian entreaty and glorious memory. The survivors of the family gathered to hear the will read, and this was to be kept and that was to be sold, and it was "share and share alike." But there was an unwritten will that read something like this: "In the name of God, amen. I being of sound mind, bequeath to my children all my prayers for their salvation; I bequeath to them all the results of a lifetime's toil; I bequeath to them the Christian religion, which has been so much comfort to me, and I hope may be solace for them; I bequeath to them a hope of reunion when the partings of life are over. 'Share and share alike,' may they inherit eternal riches. I bequeath to them the wish that they may avoid my errors and copy anything that may have been worthy. In the name of God who made me, and the Christ who redeemed me, and the Holy Ghost who sanctifies me, I make this my last will and testament. Witness all you hosts of heaven. Witness time, witness eternity. Signed, sealed and delivered in this our dying hour. Father and Mother." You did not get that will proved at the surrogate's office, but I take it out today and I read it to you. I take it out of the alcoves of your heart. I shake the dust off it. I ask if you will accept that inheritance, or will you break the will? Oh, ye of Christian ancestry! You have a responsibility vast beyond all measurement. God will not let you off with just being as good as ordinary people when you had such extraordinary advantage. Ought not a flower planted in a hot-house be more thrifty than a flower planted outside in the storm? Ought not a factory turned by the Housatonic do more work than a factory turned by a thin and shallow mountain stream? Ought not you of great early opportunity be better than those who had a cradle blessed? A father sets his son up in business. He keeps an account of all the expenditures. So much for store fixtures, so much for rent, so much for this, so much for that, and all the items aggregated, and the father expects the son to give an account. . . . But I turn for a moment to those who had evil parentage, and I want to tell you that the highest thrones in heaven and the mightiest triumphs and the brightest crowns will be for those who had evil parentage, but who by the grace of God conquered—conquered. As good, as useful, as splendid a gentleman as I ever knew had for a father a man who died blaspheming God until the neighbors had to put their fingers in their ears to shut out the horror. One of the most consecrated and useful Christian ministers of today was the son of a drunken horse-

Jockey. Tide of evil tremendous in some families. It is like Niagara Rapids, and yet men have clung to a rock and been rescued. There is a family in New York, whose wealth has rolled up into many millions, that was founded by a man who after he had vast estate sent back a paper of tacks because they were two cents more than he expected. Grip and grind and gouge in the fourth generation—I suppose it will be grip and grind and gouge in the twentieth generation. The thirst of intoxicants has burned down through the arteries of a hundred and fifty years. Pugnacity or combativeness characterizes other families. Sometimes one form of evil, sometimes another form of evil. But it may be resisted, it has been resisted. If the family frailty be avarice, cultivate unselfishness and charity, and teach your children never to eat an apple without offering somebody else half of it. Is the family frailty combativeness, keep out of the company of quick-tempered people, and never answer an impatient question until you have counted a hundred both ways, and after you have written an angry letter, keep it a week before you send it, and then burn it up. Is the family frailty timidity and cowardice, cultivate backbone; read the biography of brave men like Joshua or Paul and see if you cannot get a little iron in your blood. Find out what the family frailty is, and set body, mind, and soul in battle array. Conquer you will. I think the genealogical table was put in the first chapter of the New Testament not only to show our Lord's pedigree, but to show that a man may rise up in an ancestral line and beat back successfully all the influences of bad heredity. See in that genealogical table that good King Asa was born of vile King Abia. See in that genealogical table that Joseph and Mary and the most illustrious Being that ever touched our world, or ever will touch it, had in their ancestral line scandalous Rehoboam and Rahab and Thamar and Bathsheba. If this world is ever to be Edenized—and it will be—all the infected families of the earth are to be regenerated and there will come one arise in each family line and open a new genealogical table. There will be some Joseph to arise in the line and reverse the evil influence of Rehoboam, and there will be some Mary to arise in the line and reverse the evil influence of Bathsheba. Perhaps the star of hope may point down to your manger. Perhaps you are to be the hero or the heroine that is to put down the brakes and stop that long line of genealogical tendencies and switch it off on another track from that on which it has been running for a century. You do that and I will promise you as fine a place as the architects of heaven can build, the archway inscribed with the words: "More than conqueror." But whatever your heredity, let me say you may be sons and daughters of the Lord God Almighty. Estranged children from the homestead, come back through the open gate of adoption. There is royal blood in our veins, there are crowns on our scepter, our Father is King, our Brother is King, we may be kings and queens unto God forever. Come and sit down on the ivory bench of the palace. Come and wash in the fountains that fall into the basins of crystal and alabaster. Come and look out of the upholstered window upon gardens of azalea and amaranth. Hear the full burst of the orchestra while you banquet with potentates and victors. Oh! when the text sweeps backward, let it not stop at the cradle that rocked your infancy, but at the cradle that rocked the first world, and when the text sweeps forward, let it not stop at your grave, but at the throne on which you may reign, forever and ever. "Whose son art thou, thou young man?" Son of God! Heir of immortality! Take your inheritance!

A GRAND OLD MAN.

THE LATE JUDGE TRUMBULL A VETERAN OF RIGHT.

He Belonged to Several Political Parties and Served in the Senate During the War—Sketch of His Long and Useful Career.



HE late Lyman Trumbull was one of Chicago's best known and most highly esteemed citizens. He was afflicted with a large number of influential organizations, among them being the American Bar association, I roquois club and the board of counselors of the Chicago College of Dental Surgery. His political career was an interesting one. He was born in Colchester, Conn., Oct. 12, 1810, and during the long period of his lifetime held many high offices. Among the latter were those of United States senator, justice of the supreme court of the state of Illinois, and state representative. He migrated to Illinois in 1837, and settled in Belleville, St. Clair county. In 1840 he was elected representative in the state legislature, where he served two years. After that he became a candidate for several offices, but was unsuccessful until 1848, when he was elected one of the justices of the state supreme court. Four years later he was re-elected for a term of nine years, but he resigned in 1853. His career as a United States senator began in 1855, when he was elected to serve six years. At the expiration of this term he was re-elected for a similar period, and in '67 he was made senator for the third time. During his three terms of senatorial incumbency he attracted wide notice through his prominent identification with matters which were shaking the public mind. When the slave question was the theme on every tongue, Mr. Trumbull abandoned the policy of the democratic party, with which he had been prominently identified, and espoused the cause of freedom. He was the first to propose an amendment to the constitution abolishing slavery.

LOCOMOTIVES BUILT IN JAPAN.

Experimental Work Proves a Success in Construction and Economy. An English consular report recently published says: "Much interest was created among English builders by the accounts published in trade journals in England of the first locomotive built at the government railway workshops in Japan, which, it was said, was completed at a cost of £1,300, while a similar locomotive built in England could not be placed on the line in Japan, ready for running, at a less cost than £1,800 pounds. The alleged cost in Japan was fallacious, no allowance having been made for interest on capital, scientific superintendence and other charges, all of which would be taken into consideration by private builders, but at the same time there was no doubt that the cost, no matter how liberally calculated, was comparatively low. Most of its parts were entirely constructed at the works in Japan—boiler, water tanks, wheels, cylinders and valves—and only the frame plates and a few minor parts came in a rough state from abroad. This engine started running on April 26, and has since run over 80,000 miles with perfect success, lowness in consumption of coal, good hauling capacity and steadiness. Four tender locomotives have since been built in the same workshops and are now running on the Higo-Kioto section of the Tokaido railway. They have already run over 15,000 miles, and in all respects are giving as complete satisfaction as the first. Two of the largest private railway companies are now following the example set by the government and trying the experiment of constructing their own locomotives. Neither government nor private companies will, however, be able for many years yet to satisfy more than a very small fraction of their requirements in this respect."

DEFENDER OF LABOR.

Congressman Belknap of Chicago Has Won Labor's Esteem. Congressman Hugh R. Belknap, whose speech on the Phillips Labor bill stirred the members of the House and made a distinct hit with the gallery, is one of the self-made men of Chicago. His educational advantages were some-



THE LATE JUDGE TRUMBULL.

In the Thirty-seventh congress he took a prominent part in the discussions relating to the following measures: On the transfer of certain suits to the United States courts, on the discharge of state prisoners, and on compensated emancipation in Missouri. In the Thirty-eighth congress he was prominent in debates resulting from the following measures: On the oath of a senator, on colored voters in Montana, on amending the constitution, and on confiscation. One of the political meetings in which he took a prominent part, and which is of more local interest, perhaps, than some other even more important matters, was that held in April, 1854, when prominent state politicians, including both democrats and whigs, who were opposed to the course of Stephen A. Douglas in the senate, convened in the Tremont house. Abraham Lincoln, Lyman Trumbull, Mark Skinner, O. H. Browning, John E. Stewart, David Davis, Norman B. Judd, J. Young Scammon, Francis C. Sherman and other well-known men were present. At this meeting the politicians pledged themselves to support the anti-Nebraska party, and appointed a committee to agitate the subject. The state vote of 1850, when Mr. Trumbull was pitted as the democratic candidate for governor against Shelby M. Cullom, republican, shows the popularity of the democratic candidate. At that time Mr. Cullom won out by a vote of 314,565 to 277,532 votes for Trumbull. Mr. Trumbull was a member of the law firm of Trumbull, Washburne & Robbins.

what limited, but his effort on the Labor bill was rhetorical, forceful, and at times passionately eloquent. Mr. Belknap is a fine impromptu speaker. Two years ago he attended the annual meeting of the Army of the Tennessee, at Council Bluffs, Iowa. Mr. John M. Thurston of Omaha was to have addressed the meeting, but could not be present. Mr. Belknap was called upon without warning to take Mr. Thurston's place, and his pathetic and fiery oration on that occasion won for him the warmest plaudits. Mr. Belknap is only 38 years old. He is a native of Keokuk, Ia., and in the public schools of that city he was given his preparatory education. He afterward spent a short



CONGRESSMAN BELKNAP.

time at an academy in Massachusetts, but he was unable to finish his education, as was his desire, in a college. He left the academy to enter the service of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad in a humble capacity. In 12 years he had become trainmaster, and was later made chief clerk to the general manager. He left his position to become superintendent of Chicago's first elevated railroad, and relinquished that place to engage in the financial handling of railroads. His nomination for congress came to him unthought.

INVENTIONS BY WOMEN.

Their Ideas Remarkable for Their Practical Character. Forty-five hundred patents have been granted to women up to date, says the New York Journal. One of the most notable of women's inventions is a deep-sea telescope. With its aid the bottom of the ocean may be examined. It has a lamp attachment which lights up the depths so that wrecks and other obstructions may be plainly seen. It is also very useful to divers. Women have invented innumerable devices to enhance beauty. The most ambitious of all these patents is one that is supposed to restore general facial symmetry. Mrs. B., whose idea this is, says that the device is intended to be used by persons whose faces are misshapen or who have not pretty mouths. It consists of a spring or springs that can be attached to or connected with the teeth. Each spring should press against the part of the face that is out of shape. It can easily be seen that if this were used habitually, the part of the lips or cheek pressed in would in course of time assume the shape of the object pressing it. Another beautifier, which owes its origin to Mrs. B., is the ear holder. This device is intended to hold the ears which lop forward or stand out close to the side of the head. It consists merely of two pieces of thin, flat steel, reaching from the tip of one ear over the head to the tip of the other ear. These are held together by a loop and are arranged so that they can be lengthened or shortened to suit the head of the wearer. They are attached to the ears by spring clasps. One fair inventor has designed a nose improver. This device consists of a metal shell the exact size and shape of the nose desired. The nose to be treated should be well bathed and then rubbed with olive oil or glycerine until soft. The improver is then fastened on and the wearer goes to bed. In the morning it is taken off and the nose is well bathed in warm water. It will probably make the organ very sore, but then what will one not stand for the sake of beauty. It is claimed by the inventor that in this way a nose may be made to assume any shape that suits the owner. Women have naturally devoted a large share of their ideas to contrivances for saving trouble in the household. Among these are a smoothing-iron that heats itself, a trap for bedbugs, a fish-scaler, a step-ladder that is an ironing board in disguise, a sofa that can be turned into a bathtub, a pair of scissors and tape-measure combined, a perspiration-proof skirt and a folding soap dish. Innumerable patents have been granted for mechanical dish-washers. The best of these contrivances was invented by a woman in Shelbyville, Ill. The dishes are put into a crate of wire and hot water supplied by a boiler is made to pour upon them from a perforated pipe. The crate is arranged with racks for the dishes, knives, forks and spoons, so that they cannot jostle about, although kept oscillating all the time. The water is so hot that it washes the dishes clean and finally goes off in vapor, leaving the dishes dry. Women have devised many improvements for sewing machines. These include a needle that does not have to be threaded and a device which renders it possible to thread the needle while the machine is running. One woman inventor has devised a motor for running sewing machines. A woman has devised a pocket spittoon. This interesting article is designed to prevent the objectionable habit of indiscriminate expectoration. Another woman's invention is a mustache spoon. This is intended to keep that masculine ornament, so dear to the heart of its possessor, out of the soup. A "pantaloons tree" for keeping trousers in shape was originated by a woman. A new sort of dinner pail, which is also a dark lantern for the use of laboring men who are detained after dark at their work, is a feminine invention.

New Mummifying Process. The London Lancet reports the invention by Sig. Carlo Vercoloni of a process by which a dead body is hermetically sealed in a coffin from the walls of which certain chemical exhalations are slowly and continuously liberated. The gases and moisture given off as the result of decomposition are thereby counteracted and absorbed and the body is gradually transformed into the mummified state, being perfectly dry and retaining every feature as in life. The dead body of a child reduced to this condition is on view in Milan. The head, body and limbs of the child are admirably preserved in their natural relief, the hair is blonde as in life and a look of repose characterizes the ensemble, though the complexion of the body is of that yellowish copper color peculiar to mummies.

CURIOUS FACTS.

The mole is not blind, as many persons suppose. Its eye is hardly larger than a pinhead, and is carefully protected from dust and dirt by means of enclosing hairs. No parental care ever fails to the lot of a single member of the insect tribe. In general, the eggs of an insect are destined to be hatched long after the parents are dead. The elephant is commonly supposed to be a slow, clumsy fellow, but when excited or frightened can attain a speed of twenty miles an hour and can keep it up half a day. People who are susceptible to the cold should make a point of wearing loose clothing in cold weather. Loose garments are always warmer than tight-fitting ones, not only because they allow room for circulation, but also because they permit a layer of air between the skin and the outside air.

The \$5-gold piece weighs 135 grains.