

TALMAGE'S SERMON.

"WINGS OF SERAPHIM" LAST SUNDAY'S SUBJECT.

From the Text: "With Twain He Covered His Face, With Twain He Covered His Feet, and with Twain He Did Fly."—Isaiah 6:2.



A hospital of leprous good King Uziah had died, and the whole land was shadowed with solemnity, and theological and prophetic Isaiah was thinking about religious things, as one is apt to do in time of great national bereavement, and forgetting the presence of his wife and two sons who made up his family, he has a dream, not like the dreams of ordinary character, which generally come from indigestion, but a vision most instructive, and under the touch of the hand of the Almighty.

The place, the ancient temple: building grand, awful, majestic. Within that temple a throne higher and grander than that occupied by any czar or sultan or emperor. On that throne, the eternal Christ. In lines surrounding that throne, the brightest celestials, not the cherubim, but higher than they, the most exquisite and radiant of the heavenly inhabitants: the seraphim. They are called burners because they look like fire. Lips of fire, eyes of fire, feet of fire. In addition to the features and the limbs which suggest a human being, there are pinions, which suggest the lighest, the swiftest, the most buoyant and the most aspiring of all unintelligent creation—a bird. Each seraph had six wings, each two of the wings for a different purpose. Isaiah's dream quivers and flashes with these pinions. Now folded, now spread, now beaten in locomotion. "With twain he covered his face, with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly."

The probability is that these wings were not all used at once. The seraph standing there near the throne overwhelmed at the insignificance of the paths his feet had trodden as compared with the paths trodden by the feet of God, and with the lameness of his locomotion amounting almost to decrepitude as compared with the divine velocity, with feathery veil of angelic modesty hides the feet. "With twain he did cover the feet."

Standing there overpowered by the overwhelming splendors of God's glory, and unable longer with the eyes to look upon them, and wishing those eyes shaded from the insufferable glory, the pinions gather over the countenance. "With twain he did cover the face." Then as God tells this seraph to go to the farthest outpost of immensity on message of light and love and joy, and get back before the first anthem, it does not take the seraph a great while to spread himself upon the air with unimagined celerity, one stroke of the wing equal to ten thousand leagues of air. "With twain he did fly."

The most practical and useful lesson for you and me—when we see the seraph spreading his wings over the feet, is the lesson of humility at imperfection. The brightest angels of God are so far beneath God that he charges them with folly. The seraph so far beneath God, and we so far beneath the seraph in service we ought to be plunged in humility, utter and complete. Our feet, how laggard they have been in the divine service. Our feet, how many mistakes they have taken. Our feet, in how many paths of worldliness and folly they have walked.

Neither God nor seraph intended to put any dishonor upon that which is one of the masterpieces of Almighty God—the human foot. Physiologist and anatomist are overwhelmed at the wonders of its organization. The Bridge-water Treatise, written by Sir Charles Bell, on the wisdom and goodness of God as illustrated in the human hand, was a result of the \$40,000 bequeathed in the last will and testament of the Earl of Bridgewater for the encouragement of Christian literature. The world could afford to forgive his eccentricities, though he had two dogs seated at his table, and though he put six dogs alone in an equipage drawn by four horses and attended by two footmen. With his large bequest inducing Sir Charles Bell to write so valuable a book on the wisdom of God in the structure of the human hand, the world could afford to forgive his oddities. And the world could now afford to have another Earl of Bridgewater, however idiosyncratic, if he would induce some other Sir Charles Bell to write a book on the wisdom and goodness of God in the construction of the human foot. The articulation of its bones, the lubrication of its joints, the gracefulness of its lines, the ingenuity of its cartilages, the delicacy of its veins, the rapidity of its muscular contraction, the sensitiveness of its nerves.

thou goest to the home of God." Especial peril: "Their feet shall slide in due time." Connected with the world's dissolution: "He shall set one foot on the sea and the other on the earth."

Give me the history of your foot, and I will give you the history of your lifetime. Tell me up what steps it hath gone, down what declivities, and in what roads and in what directions, and I will know more about you than I want to know. None of us could endure the scrutiny. Our feet not always in paths of God. Sometimes in paths of worldliness. Our feet, a divine and glorious machinery for usefulness and work, so often making mistakes, so often going in the wrong direction. God knowing every step, the patriarch saying, "Thou settest a print on the heels of my feet." Crimes of the hand, crimes of the tongue, crimes of the eye, crimes of the ear not worse than crimes of the foot. Oh, we want the wings of humility to cover the feet. Ought we not to go into self-abnegation before the all-searching, all-scrutinizing, all-trying eye of God? The seraphs do. How much more we? "With twain he covered the feet."

All this talk about the dignity of human nature is braggadocio and sin. Our nature started at the hand of God regal, but it has been pauperized. There is a well in Belgium which once had very pure water, and it was stoutly masoned with stone and brick; but that well afterward became the center of the battle of Waterloo. At the opening of the battle the soldiers with their sabers compelled the gardener, William Von Kysion, to draw water out of the well for them, and it was very pure water. But the battle raged, and three hundred dead and half dead were flung into the well for quick and easy burial; so that the well of refreshment became the well of death, and long after, people looked down into the well and they saw the bleached skulls but no water. So the human soul was a well of good, but the armies of sin have fought around it, and fought across it and been slain, and it has become a well of skeletons. Dead hopes, dead resolutions, dead opportunities, dead ambitions. An abandoned well unless Christ shall reopen and purify and fill it as the well of Belgium never was. Unclean, unclean.

Another seraphic posture in the text: "With twain he covered the face." That means reverence Godward. Never so much irreverence abroad in the world as to-day. You see it in the defaced statuary, in the cutting out of figures from fine paintings, in the chipping of monuments for a memento, in the fact that military guard must stand at the grave of Lincoln and Garfield, and that old shade trees must be cut down for brewed, though fifty George P. Morris be the woodmen to spare the tree, and that call a corpse a cadaver, and that speaks of death as going over to the majority, and substitutes for the reverent terms father and mother, "the old man" and "the old woman," and finds nothing impressive in the ruins of Baalbec or the columns of Karnac, and sees no difference in the Sabbath from other days except it allows more dissipation, and reads the Bible in what is called higher criticism, making it not the Word of God but a good book with some fine things in it. Irreverence never so much abroad. How many take the name of God in vain, how many trivial things said about the Almighty. Not willing to have God in the world, they roll up an idea of sentimentality and humanitarianism and impudence and imbecility, and call it God. No wings of reverence over the face, no taking off of shoes on holy ground. You can tell from the way they talk they could have made a better world than this, and that the God of the Bible shocks every sense of propriety. They talk of the love of God in a way that shows you they believe it does not make any difference how bad a man is here, he will come in at the shining gate. They talk of the love of God in a way which shows you they think it is a general jail delivery for all the abandoned and the scoundrelly of the universe. No punishment hereafter for any wrong done here.

The Bible gives two descriptions of God, and they are just opposite, and they are both true. In one place the Bible says God is love. In another place the Bible says God is a consuming fire. The explanation is plain as plain can be. God through Christ is love. God out of Christ is fire. To win the one and to escape the other we have only to throw ourselves body, mind and soul into Christ's keeping. "No," says irreverence, "I want no atonement; I want no pardon; I want no intervention; I will go up and face God, and I will challenge him, and I will defy him, and I will ask him what he wants to do with me." So the finite confronts the infinite, so a tack hammer tries to break a thunderbolt, so the breath of human nostrils defies the everlasting God, while the hierarchs of heaven bow the head and bend the knee as the King's chariot goes by, and the archangel turns away because he cannot endure the splendor, and the chorus of all the empires of heaven comes in with full diapason, "Holy, holy, holy!"

Reverence for sham, reverence for the old merely because it is old, reverence for stupidity, however learned, reverence for incapacity however finely inaugurated, I have none. But we want more reverence for God, more reverence for the sacraments, more reverence for the Bible, more reverence for the pure, more reverence for the good. Reverence a characteristic of all great natures. You hear it in the roll of the master orator. You see it in the Raphaels and Titians and Ghirlandajos. You study it in the architecture of the Abolissas and Christopher Wrens. Do not be flippant about God. Do not joke about death. Do not make fun of the Bible. Do not deride the Eternal. The brightest ad-

mightest seraph cannot look unabashed upon him. Involuntarily the wings come up. "With twain he covered his face." . . .

As you take a pinch of salt or powder between your thumb and two fingers, so Isaiah indicates God takes up the earth. He measures the dust of the earth, the original thereof indicating that God takes all the dust of all the continents between the thumb and two fingers. You wrap around your hand a blue ribbon five times, ten times. You say it is five hand-breadths, or it is ten hand-breadths. So indicates the prophet God winds the blue ribbon of the sky around his hand. "He meteth out the heavens with a span." You know that balances are made of a beam suspended in the middle with two basins at the extremity of equal length. In that way that a vast heft has been weighed. But what are all the balances of earthly manipulation compared with the balances that Isaiah saw suspended when he saw God putting into the scales the Alps and the Appennines and Mount Washington and the Sierra Nevadas. You see the earth had to be ballasted. It would not do to have too much weight in Europe, or too much weight in Asia, or too much weight in Africa, or in America; so when God made the mountains he weighed them. The Bible distinctly says so. God knows the weight of the great ranges that cross the continents, the tons, the pounds avoirdupois, the ounces, the grains, the millegrammes—just how much they weighed then, and just how much they weigh now. "He weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance."

See that eagle in the mountain nest. It looks so sick, so ragged-feathered, so worn-out and so half asleep. Is that eagle dying? No. The ornithologist will tell you it is the moulting season with that bird. Not dying, but moulting. You see that Christian sick and weary and worn-out and seeming about to expire on what is called his death-bed. The world says he is dying. I say it is the moulting season for his soul—the body dropping away, the celestial pinions coming on. Not dying, but moulting. Moulting out of darkness and sin and struggle into glory and into God. Why do you not shout? Why do you sit shivering at the thought of death and trying to hold back and wishing you could stay here forever, and speak of departure as though the subject were filled with skeletons and the vanish of coffin, and as though you preferred lame foot to swift wing?

O People of God, let us stop playing the fool and prepare for rapturous flight. When your soul stands on the verge of this life, and there are vast precipices beneath, and spaired domes above, which way will you fly? Will you swoop or will you soar? Will you fly downward or will you fly upward? Everything on the wing this day bidding us aspire. Holy Spirit on the wing. Angel of the New Covenant on the wing. Time on the wing, flying away from us. Eternity on the wing, flying toward us. Wings, wings, wings!

Live so near to Christ that when you are dead, people standing by your lifeless body will not soliloquize, saying: "What a disappointment life was to him; how averse he was to departure; what a pity it was he had to die; what an awful calamity." Rather standing there may they see a sign more vivid on your still face than the vestiges of pain, something that will indicate that it was a happy exit—the clearance from oppressive quarantine, the cast-off chrysalis, the moulting of the faded and the useless, and the ascent from malarial valleys to bright, shining mountain-tops, and be led to say, as they stand there contemplating your humility and your reverence in life, and your happiness in death: "With twain he covered the face, with twain he did fly." Wings! Wings! Wings!

Brave Children.

The Denver Republican quotes an interesting story of childish heroism, related by Mr. Spearman, attorney for the department of justice at Washington. He has been taking testimony concerning some Indian depredation claims. In taking such testimony, he says, I frequently hear interesting stories concerning early frontier life. I remember one case in particular, one of the most remarkable exhibitions of courage in an eight-year-old boy that I have ever heard of. It occurred near the town of Beaver, in Utah. A ranch was attacked by Indians, and a man who was visiting the ranchman was killed, and for a while it seemed as if the whole party, wife and children, would fall a prey to the savages. The house was surrounded by the Indians, and the people within defended themselves as best they could; but the ranchman, watching his opportunity, lowered his little boy and his daughter, who was but twelve years of age, from the back window and told them to try and make their way to the canon and follow it down to Beaver, where they could obtain help. The children succeeded in reaching the canon unobserved, and with presence of mind and bravery which I think remarkable for a child of that age, the boy told his sister to follow one side of the canon and he would follow the other, so that in case the Indians should find one of them the other might not be observed. The children got safely to Beaver, where a party was organized which hastened to the rescue of the besieged. At the beginning of the siege the Indians had heard the children in the house, and missing their voices, the alert savages discovered that they had gone and endeavored to overtake them; but being unsuccessful, and knowing that help would soon arrive, they withdrew before the rescuers could reach the ranch.

A day's work has been steadily increasing for the last hundred years.

ILLINOIS LEGISLATURE

REPORTED BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.

February 23. In the senate the following bills, among others, were introduced:

By Senator Dwyer—Creating a board of assessors, to be composed of three members, who shall be elected by the electors of the county, one to be elected for a term of three years, one for two years and one for six years. Each assessor shall file a bond in the sum of \$20,000 for the faithful discharge of his duty. The board of assessors shall assess all property except that to be assessed by the state board of equalization. In Cook county the assessors shall receive a salary of \$5,000 and the clerk \$3,000 per annum.

By Senator Willoughby—To empower the judges of the superior court of Cook county to hear and determine, during vacation, motions to appoint receivers and to make all orders necessary to carry into effect any decree previously entered.

By Senator Anthony—To provide for the disposition of a person who has been convicted of murder and becomes insane after judgment by providing that the governor grant a reprieve until his sanity can be investigated by the court.

In the house to-day, by the close vote of 66 to 62, the amended bill locating the supreme court of the state at Ottawa instead of at Springfield, in case the consolidation scheme goes through, was passed after a sharp battle. Fears are now expressed that this move will have a disastrous effect on the consolidation plan.

Mr. Suttle then moved to reconsider the vote by which the Revell bill repealing the libel law failed to pass last Thursday. Mr. Murray of Sangamon made the point of order that under the rules the motion could not be made at this time, the time for reconsideration having passed.

Mr. Novak, who, at the time the bill was defeated, gave notice that "on next Wednesday" he would move a reconsideration of the vote, acknowledged that such a motion made next Wednesday would be in conflict with the rule requiring a motion to reconsider to be made on "the next legislative day," but insisted that his notice should have been accepted as meaning that he would make the motion on the following day (last Friday), and, having failed to do so, it was now the privilege of any member voting with the majority to make the motion.

Speaker Curtis sustained the point of order raised by Mr. Murray, and declared the motion to reconsider out of order.

February 24. Mr. Miller's bill providing for the establishment of branch appellate courts was passed by the house with the emergency clause. It provides that whenever the number of cases pending in any appellate court shall exceed 250 the supreme court, upon the request of a majority of the justices of the appellate court, shall assign three other judges of the circuit court or the superior court of Cook county, who shall constitute a branch appellate court for the consideration and disposition of the business before such appellate court. The following bills were introduced: By Mr. Brigandello—Amending the law regulating civil service in cities by excluding from the classified service, and thus exempting from examination, "officers who are elected by the people, or who are elected by the city council pursuant to the city charter, or whose appointment is subject to confirmation by the city council; judges and clerks of election, members of any board of education, the superintendent and teachers of schools, heads of any department of any city, members of the law department, one private secretary of the mayor, and persons performing strictly manual labor, or persons who may be engaged to perform strictly manual labor; also a bill amending the law regulating the civil service in counties by exempting from the classified service, and providing for their appointment by the president of the county board, with the advice and consent of the board, the following officers and persons: Warden of the county hospital, superintendent of the insane asylum and poorhouse, county agent, county physician, the custodians of the court house and the criminal court building, county attorney, county architect, committee clerk of the county board, and persons performing strictly manual labor, or who may be engaged to perform strictly manual labor.

In the senate Mr. Fitzpatrick's bill appropriating \$31,000 for furnishing the memorial hall in the public library building in Chicago was passed. The following bills were introduced: By Mr. Fitzpatrick—To protect policy holders insured under industrial life insurance policies or upon the weekly payment system. By Mr. Harding—Regulating the sale of intoxicating liquors outside the incorporated limits of cities by providing that a daily register be kept, stating to whom sold, the kind, price and date. By Mr. Litterer—Providing that corporations transacting a surety business must have a paid-up capital of \$250,000.

February 25. In the house to-day Mr. Johnson of Whiteside (dem.) introduced a bill allowing the governor, auditor and treasurer to borrow \$250,000 to meet the present deficit in the state revenues, it being identical with the republican bill defeated yesterday, with the exception of confining the permission to the present instance. He moved that it be read a first time and advanced without reference, suspending the rules for the purpose, but on a viva voce vote Speak-

er Curtis declared the motion lost. The democrats then clamored for a roll call, but Mr. Curtis finally ruled that the demand came too late. The bill therefore went to the appropriations committee. It was voted to make all resolutions proposing amendments to the constitution special orders for March 15. Bills were introduced as follows: The bill of Mr. Murray of Stark providing that the trustee in a trust deed may release the same on the margin of the record failed to pass. On motion of Mr. Cochran the vote was reconsidered and the bill recommitted to the judiciary committee. Mr. Andrews' bill providing that in a prosecution for wife abandonment the wife shall be a competent witness was passed. In the senate the following bills were introduced: By Mr. Hollinger—Providing that persons selling articles on the installment plan shall not seize any article so sold unless they refund 75 per cent of the money paid; also a bill to repeal the parole law. By Mr. Stubbsfield—Fixing a maximum fare of 3 cents on street car lines outside of Chicago, and providing that the driver or motorman shall be employed not longer than ten hours each day. By Mr. McConnell—Appropriating \$321,000 for expenses and \$37,000 for repairs at the insane hospital at Jacksonville. By Mr. Baxter—Requiring courts to submit to jury questions of fact to be passed upon specially.

February 26. In the absence of Lieutenant Governor Northcott and Mr. Fisher, president pro tempore, Senator Bogardus called the senate to order to-day. There was scarcely a quorum present and the session lasted but five minutes, during which several bills were introduced. The senate adjourned on Monday at 10 a. m. When the house convened at 10 o'clock it was quite evident that not enough members were present to make a quorum. Mr. Nobe (Rep.) demanded that the roll of the house be called. This was ordered by the speaker, and fifty-nine members answered to their names. In the absence of objections a number of bills were reported from the committees on judiciary and on education and several bills on first reading were read and advanced on the calendar. The resolution providing that after March 19 no bills shall be introduced was adopted. Half a dozen members requested and were granted leave of absence for next week. Several bills were introduced, among them the following: By Mr. Carnody—Amending the act creating a police pension fund in cities by providing that every person who shall have served as a policeman for twenty years in any city subject to the provisions of the act, and who shall have become fifty years of age, and whose service upon the police force shall have ceased, shall be entitled to a pension of \$50 per month, but if such person is receiving compensation from any other source, he shall not be entitled to any part of the pension fund. The house adjourned to 5 o'clock Monday afternoon. On account of many members going to the inauguration ceremonies at Washington, practically no business will be transacted either in the house or senate next week. AD WIS LEG FEB 26

February 27. Mrs. John Drew, the indefatigable though aged actress, has retired from the east of the English melodrama "The Sporting Duchess," as the horse in the production frightened her so she could not go on with her part. Rose Coghlan has taken her place. John Drew has of late years been much opposed to his mother's remaining on the stage, and has repeatedly offered her a home, and it is likely that Mrs. Drew will soon permanently retire. John Drew has educated the three children of his favorite sister, George Drew Barrymore, besides helping his brother out of pecuniary holes, so in spite of the large amount of money he makes he sees his bank account dwindle rapidly.

Maggie Mitchell has just erected an apartment house in New York that cost her \$250,000. It is called the St. Andoche, in honor of the strongest act in the play that made her wealthy and famous "Fanchon the Cricketer."

Beerbohm Tree and Gilbert Parker think that the dramatization of the latter's novel, "The Seats of the Mighty," though it has failed in New York, may yet be successful, and the actor will try it again on his American tour. Mr. Parker is with the company, making alterations and attempting to improve the stage production.

The music of the beautiful and very successful Empire ballet of "Monte Cristo" will be published in America almost immediately. English critics are extravagant in their praises of the composer, M. Leopold Wenzel, and declare that he has brought ballet to the level of grand opera.

May Irwin has made arrangements by which she will become the manager of a theater in New York city. She says she is tired of making money for managers and will now be manager herself. She will act in her own theater, doing very little traveling, and has bought a house in New York for herself and her mother.

Joseph Haworth and Annie Russell have left the cast of Bret Harte's play, "Sue," which is still running in New York but will not last long. Haworth has joined Mme. Modjeska's company.

ILLINOIS NEWSLETS

RECORD OF MINOR DOINGS OF THE WEEK.

Seven Days' Happenings Condensed—Social, Religious, Political, Criminal, Obituary and Miscellaneous Events from Every Section of the State.

The Y. M. C. A. of Galesburg is to have a woman's branch. Rock Island young ladies are arranging to give a minstrel show. John W. Whipp, aged 73, died in Bloomington Monday afternoon.

Joliet has a little boodle sensation in regard to the high school site. Bloomington business men have taken steps to inaugurate a civic federation.

A shortage is claimed in the accounts of ex-Treasurer Dowell, of La Salle County. Catholics and Lutherans of Quincy are objecting strenuously to the free text book law.

The State Camp of Patriotic Order Sons of America was in session at Monmouth last week. Mrs. Wheeler of Kendall County accuses Dr. Freeman of Millington of having assaulted her and using hypnotism in order to accomplish his purpose.

Springfield sporting men had a novelty Saturday night in the shape of a rat-killing match, in which the winning dog dispatched seven rats in thirty seconds.

There are five candidates for the office of postmaster in Maroa and they are talking of submitting their claims to the patrons of the office at a primary meeting.

The Wier Ploy Company has not yet decided whether to remove from Monmouth to East Moline. A compromise between the parties in dispute is now under way.

That winter wheat has been badly killed is no longer a matter of speculation, so far as western Illinois and northwestern Missouri are concerned, and thousands of acres will be redirted with spring wheat. Northern spring seed wheat is being shipped in large quantities.

The cost per capita of keeping the paupers of Livingston County the past year was \$2.44 per week. The cost of the year 1895 was only \$1.80, but it is explained by the fact that last year the cholera killed the hogs, making it necessary to buy meat, which ordinarily is produced on the farm. The average for twenty years has been \$2.29, which includes everything but interest on investment.

At the election held in Arrowsmith, Saturday, for the purpose of selecting a suitable person to succeed Mr. J. A. Pittsberger, there were only three candidates in the field, two having withdrawn. The contestants were A. G. Barnes, Frank E. Weber and Miss Ora Cline. Miss Cline was chosen by an overwhelming majority. The vote as given was: Barnes, 24; Weber, 24; Miss Cline, 99. This settles a question which has been agitated for several months.

The contention for the postoffice appointment at Mt. Zion, Mason County, has just been settled in an amicable manner. There were four candidates, one woman and three men. By mutual agreement, the matter was left to a vote of the patrons of the office. The result was that Mrs. George Vermilion received 87 votes; H. G. Scott, 43; J. F. Harbert, 26; D. F. Hickey, 24. Under the agreement the woman will be post-mistress under Major McKinley.

To establish in Chicago a community based in part upon the theories of Bellamy, as well as the ideas of the Dunkaris and other kindred organizations, is the plan of L. R. Miller, No. 15 Jackson street. It is not a part of the plan, however, that members of the community shall take up pastoral pursuits, or confine themselves to any particular calling. On the contrary, they will continue in the vocations which have occupied them heretofore in Chicago.

A mortgage for \$50 has been filed in the recorder's office at Joliet, Ill., in favor of Russell Sage, the New York millionaire. Russell has a brother, Eliazur Sage, who, with his family, has lived in the village of Channahon for several years. Russell recently loaned his brother \$50. The loan was evidenced by a promissory note drawing 6 per cent interest, due May 10, 1897. This note is secured by a mortgage on Eliazur Sage's homestead in Channahon, which, after being recorded, will be sent to Mr. Sage in New York.

Mrs. Dr. De Juster, wife of "Count" De Juster, who was recently released by the Chicago police, who were unable to prove many charges they had against him, arrived in Chicago Monday morning from Philadelphia. She claims to be the legal, original wife of the "count," and has expressed herself as having come from her home in Philadelphia to prosecute him for bigamy. "Count" De Juster, two months ago, married Belle Curtis in Chicago, alleging at the time he was a single man. Mrs. De Juster No. 1 is the daughter of a wealthy retired merchant named Oppenheimer in Philadelphia.

On the night of Nov. 4 Dennis Riordan of Roberts disappeared from Kankakee, having last been seen in a saloon with \$40 in his possession. On Saturday afternoon the body was discovered on the banks of the Kankakee River. His head was caved in and his money was gone. Riordan was a prosperous and respected farmer of Roberts, and was about 30 years old.

Decatur is having a mild season over numerous burglaries, which have been entered Friday night, apparently by some gang. No arrests have, however, been made.