TALMAGES SERMON

THE CAUSE OF RIGHTEOUS-NESS FLOURISHING.

A Discourse from the Text: Lamentations, Chapter III, Verse 39--- Wherefere Deth a Living Man Complain?"-Better Days Are Near at Hand.



to

CHEERFUL interrogatory in the most melancholy book of the Bible! Jeremiah wrote so many sad things that we have a word named after him, and when anything is surcharged with grief and complaint, we call it a

Jeremiad. But in my text Jeremiah, as by a sudden jolt, wakens us to a thankful spirit.

Our blessings are so much more numerous than our deserts that he is surprised that anybody should ever find fault. Having life, and with it a thousand blessings, it ought to hush into perpetual silence everything like criticism of the dealings of God. "Wherefore doth a living man complain?

There are three prescriptions by which I believe that our individual and national finances may be cured of their present depression. The first is cheerful conversation and behavior. I have noticed that the people who are most vociferous against the day in which we live are those who are in comfortable circumstances. I have made inquiry of those persons who are violent in their jeremiads against these times, and I have asked them, "Now, after all, are you not making a living?" After some hesitation and coughing and clearing their throat three or four times, they say stammeringly, "Y-e-s." So that with a great multitude of people it is not a question of getting a livelihood, but they are dissatisfied because they cannot make as much money as they would like to make. They have only two thousand dollars in the bank, where they would like to have four thousand. They can clear in a year only five thousand dollars, when they would like to clear ten thousand, or things come out just even. Or, in their trade they get three dollars a day when they wish they could make four or five. "Oh!" says some one, "are you not aware of the fact that there is a great population out of employment, and there are hundreds of good families of this country who are at their wits' end, not knowing which way to turn?" Yes. I know it better than any man in private life can know that sad fact, for it comes constantly to my eye and ear. But who is responsible for this state of things?

Much of that responsibility I put upon men in comfortable circumstances, who, by an everlasting growling, keep public confidence depressed and new enterprises from starting out and new houses from being built. You know very well that one despondent man can tak fifty men into despondency, while one cheerful physician can wake up into exhibaration a whole asylum of hypochondriacs. It is no kindness to the poor or the unemployed for you to join deploration. wit and sense to think of something cheerful to say, then keep silent, There is no man that can be independent of depressed conversation. The medical journals are ever illustrating it. I was reading of five men who resolved that they would make an experiment and see what they could do in the way of depressing a stout, healthy man, and they resolved to meet him at different points in his journey; and as he stepped out from his house in the morning in robust health, one of the five men met him and said, "Why, you look very sick What is the matter?" He said, in excellent health; there is nothing the matter." But passing down the street, he began to examine his symptoms, and the second of the five men met him and said, "Why, how bad you do look." "Well," he replied, "I don't feel very well." After a while the third man met him, and the fourth man met him, and the fifth man came up and said, "Why, you look as if you had had the typhoid fever for six What is the matter with you?" And the man against whom the stratagem had been laid went home and died. And if you meet a man with perpetual talk about hard times, and bankruptey and dreadful winters that are to come. you break down his courage. A few autumns ago, as the winter was coming on, people said, "We shall have a terrible winter. The poor will be frozen out this winter." There was something in the large store of acorne that the squirrels had gathered, and something in the phases of the moon, and something in other portends, that made you certain we were going to have a hard winter. Winter came. It was the mildest one within my memory and within yours. All that winter long I do not think there was an icicle that hung through the day from the eaves of the house. So you prophesied falsely. Last winter was coming, and the people said, "We shall have unparalleted suffering among the poor. It will be a dreadful winter." Sure enough it religion of Jesus Christ has a direct was a cold winter; but there was more | tendency to make men honest and large hearted charities than ever before poured out on the country; better | bonesty and sobrlety and truth-telling | earnest in delivery and interesting with provision made for the poor, so that there have been scores of winters when

this time. viation of financial distresses is proper | great awakening has an influence upon Christian investment. God demands of the future world. I tell you it has a versity graduates and medical men, every individual state, and nation, a direct influence upon the financial and a Scotchman who ran through certain proportion of their income. We | welfare of this world. The religion of | £50,000 in three years.

the poor had a harder time than they

are parsimonious! We keep back from God that which belongs to him, and when we keep back anything from God he takes what we keep back, and he takes more. He takes it by storm, by sickness, by bankruptcy, by any one of the ten thousand ways which he can employ. The reason many of you are cramped in business is because you have never learned the lesson of Christian generosity. You employ an agent, You give him a reasonable salary; and, lo! you find out that he is appropriating your funds besides the salary. What do you do? Discharge him. Well, we are God's agents. He puts in our hands certain moneys. Part are to be ours. Part are to be his. Suppose we take all, what then? He will discharge us; he will turn us over to financial disasters, and take the trust away from us. The reason that great multitudes are not prospered in business is simply because they have been withholding from God that which belongs to him. The rule is, give, and you will receive. Administer liberally, and you shall have more to administer. am in full sympathy with the man who was to be baptized by immersion, and some one said, "You had better leave your pocket book out, it will get wet." "No," said he, "I want to go down under the wave with everything. I want to consecrate my property and all to God." And so he was baptized. What we want in this country is more baptized pocketbooks.

I had a relative whose business seemed to be failing. Here a loss, and there a loss, and everything was bothering, perplexing and annoying him. He sat down one day and said, "God must have a controversy with me about something. I believe I haven't given enough to the cause of Christ." And there and then he took out his check book and wrote a large check for a missionary society. He told me, "Tha was the turning point in my business Ever since then I have been prosperous. From that day, aye, from that very hour, I saw the change.". And, sure enough, he went on, and gathered fortune. The only safe investment that a man can make in this world is in the cause of Christ. If a man give from a superabundance, God may or he may not respond with a blessing; but if a man give until he feels it, if a man give until it fetches the blood, if a man give until his selfishness cringes and twists and cowers under it he will get not only spiritual profit, but he will get paid back in hard cash or in convertible securities. We often see men who are tight fisted who seem to get along with their investments very profitably, notwithstanding all their parsimony. But wait. Suddenly in that man's history everything goes wrong. His health fails, or his reason is dethroned, or a domestic curse smites bim, or a midnight shadow of some kind drops upon his soul and upon his bus. ess. What is the matter? God is punishing him for his small heartedness. He tried to chest God and God worsted him. So that one of the recipes for the cure of individual and national finances is more generosity. Where you bestowed one dollar on the cause of Christ, give two. God loves to be trusted, and he is very apt to trust back again. He says: "That man knows how to handle money; he shall have more money to handle." And very soon the property that was on the market for a great while gets a purchaser, and the bond that was not worth more than fifty cents on a dollar goes to par, and the in heaven one day: "Shipwreck of a opening of a new street doubles the world! So many millions saved! So value of his house, or in any way of a million God blesses him.

People quote as a joke what is a divine promise: "Cast thy bread upon the waters, and it will return to thee after many days." What did God mean by that? There is an Illusion there, In Egypt, when they sow the corn, it is at a time when the Nile is overflowing its banks and they sow the seed corn on the waters, and as the Nile begins to recede this seed corn strikes in the earth and comes up a harvest and that is the allusion. It seems as if they are throwing the corn away on the waters, but after a while they gather it up in a harvest. Now says God in his word: "Cast thy bread upon the waters, and it shall come back to thee after many days," It may seem to you that you are throwing it away on charities; but it will yield a harvest of green and gold -a harvest on earth and a harvest in heaven. If men could appreciate that and act on that, we would have no more trouble about individual or na

tional finances Prescription the third, for the cure of all our individual and national fi nancial distresses; a great spiritual awakening. It is no more theory. The merchants of this country were posttively demented with the monetary excitement in 1857. There never before nor since has been such a state of a nancial depression as there was at that time. A revival came, and five hundred thousand people were born into the kingdom of God. What came after the revival? The grandest financial prosperity we have ever had in this country. The finest fortunes, the largest fortunes in the United States, have been made since 1857. "Well," you say. what has spiritual improvement and revival to do with monetary improvement and revival?' Much to do. The sober and truth-telling, and are not auxiliaries of material prosperity? we could have an awakening in this country as in the days of Jonathan Eddid last winter. Weather prophets say | wards of Northampton, as in the days we will have frosts this summer which of Dr. Findley of Basking Ridge, as in will kill the harvests. Now, let me tell | the days of Dr. Griffin of Boston, the you, you have lied twice about the whole land would rouse to a higher weather, and I believe you are lying moral tone, and with that moral tone ler. the honest business enterprise of the The second prescription for the alle- | country would come up. You say a

it is its best friend. And if there should come a great awakening in this country, and all the banks and insurance companies and stores and offices and shops should close up for two weeks, and do nothing but attend to the public worship of Almighty Godafter such a spiritual vacation the laud would wake up to such financial prosperity as we have never dreamed of. Godliness is profitable for the life that now is as well as for that which is to come. But, my friends, do not put so much emphasis on worldly success as to let your eternal affairs go at loose ends. I have nothing to say against money. The more money you get the better, if it comes honestly and goes usefully. For the lack of it, sickness dies without medicine, and hunger finds its coffin in an empty bread-tray, and nakedness shivers for clothes and fire. All this canting tirade against money as though it had no practical use, when I hear a man indulge in it, it makes me think the best heaven for him would be an everlasting poorhouse! No, there is a practical use in money; but while we admit that, we must also admit that it cannot satisfy the soul, that it cannot pay for our ferriage across the Jordan of death, that it cannot unlock the gate of heaven for our immortal soul. Yet there are men who act as though packs of bonds and mortgages could be traded off for a mansion in heaven, and as though gold were a legal tender in that land where it is so common that they make pavements out of it. Salvation by Christ is the only salvation. Treasures in heaven are the only incorruptible treasures. Have you ever ciphered out that sum in loss and gain, "What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his soul?" You may wear fine apparel now, but the winds of death will flutter it like rags. Homespun and a threadbare coat have sometimes been the shadow of robes white in the blood of the Lamb. All the mines of Australia and Brazil, strung in one carcanet, are not worth to you as much as the pearl of great price. You remember, I suppose, some years ago, the shipwreck of the Central America? A storm came on that yessel. The surges tramped the deck and swept down through the hatches, and there went up a hundred-voiced death shrick. The foam on the jaw of the wave. The pitching of the steamer, as though it would leap a mountain. The glare of the signal rockets. The long cough of the steam-pipes. The hiss of extinguished furnaces. The walking of God on the wave. O, it was a stupendous spectacle.

So, there are men who go on in life -a fine voyage they are making out of it. All is well, till some euroclydon of business dieaster comes upon them, and they go down. The bottom of this commercial sea is strewn with shattered hulks. But, because ye property goes, shall your soul go? O. no! There is coming a more stupendous shipwreck after a while. This world-God launched it 6,000 years ago. and it is sailing on; but one day it will stagger at the cry of "fire!" and the timbers of the rocks will burn, and the mountains flame like masts and the clouds like sails in the judgment hurricane. God will take a good many off the deck, and others out of the berths, where they are now sleeping in Jesus. How many shall go down? No one will know until it is announced many millions drowned!" Because your fortunes go, because your house goes, because all your earthly possessions go, do not let, your soul go! May the Lord Almighty, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, save your

The Daily Tack.

We are not apt enough to think of our daily work as the Good Shepherd's pasture field. We are too apt to give heed to a miserable distinction between the sacred and secular and to seek to get out from what we call the secular into what we call the sacred, that we may find spiritual pasture fields. . . . This is the sacred service; this is God's works praying, communing, preaching, buying, selling, bricklaying, doing whatsoever things are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, of good report, which God's providence has trust into your hand to do-doing them for God's sake and in His name, the shining motive for them God's glory. . . . The daily toll is a real spiritnal pasture field; and the best of herbage we will find in it, if we will have it so, if we will take into it the motive of pleasing God, and so of doing in it our very best. How the spiritual life may nobly grow in this pasture field of daily duty done from a divine impulse!-Wayland Hoyt, D. D.

Children and Church Going. The fault may lie in some cases with the minister, but much more often the fault is with the fathers and mothers. In the matter of church attendance the parents and the pastor must combine. The parents should require and expect the children to accompany them to God's house as much as to sit at their table for their daily food in their days houses. The pastor should endeavor to attract the young to church by making his sermons simple in language, illustrations. Very few sermons are fit to be preached at all which are utterly beyond the comprehension of an average boy 10 years old. Grown people, in turn, relish fresh, vivid, simple, carnest, practical preaching as much as their children do.-Theodore L. Cuy-

In a home for sandwich men in London there are said to be several sini-

Christ is no foe to successful business;

in duties.

special advantage in the period of its preparation to those desiring to profit by advance importations of a large class of articles. The various tariff acts which have been passed since the war have been in every case a reduction in general terms, and consequently have not stimulated the importations prior to their final enactment as has been the case in this instance. The Wilson law increased the rates of duty on sugar and it is well remembered that in this particular arpassage by the importation of enormous quantities of sugar by which alone there was caused a great reduction in the revenues under the unfortunate law during its first few months. But there has been no case since the war tariffs, prior to this one in which the pending measure promised a general advance all along the line, and as a consequence no such incentive to general over-importation in nearly all classes of articles affected by the tariff. The result will be that instead of the revenues being reduced by excessive importations of two or three articles, as was the case three years ago, when the Wilson law went into effect, the Dingley law, when it takes effect, will find many months'

WHAT DO THE BIRDS WHISPER?

Grover-"Do the winds whisper through the trees the doom of our 'Perfidy and Dishonor' to American industries?" Wilson-"I'm afraid so. And what will our English friends do?"

goods in hand and as a consequence.

very light importations during several

A few examples will indicate to con-

extent this enormous increase of im-

portations during the past few months

The monthly summary of Finance and

Commerce just issued shows the May

importations of duitable cattle to be

46,975 in number against 10,067 in May

of last year, while the April importa-

tions of cattle in 1897 were 62,849

against 13,411 in April of last year. The

May importations of caustic soda

amounted to 9,570,755 pounds against

4,229,150 in the corresponding month of

last year, while the April importations

were also more than double those of

April, 1896. The importations of chic-

ory root in May were over 3,000,000

pounds against 1,360,000 in May, 1896.

while in April the importations were

nearly 8,000,000 pounds against 1,280.

000 of the preceding year. The pros-

pect of a duty on Egyptian cotton has

stirred up the importers of that article,

the May importations amounting to

2,500,000 pounds against 1,388,000 in

May of the preceding year, while the

April importations were nearly 9,600,-

000 against a trifle over 5,000,000 in

April, 1896.

months of its early history.

IMPORTERS ARE AT IT.

HAVE SPECIAL FACILITIES FOR "STOCKING UP."

rables showing Increased Exportations During the Spring of 1897 Over That of 1896-May Delay Presperity for Many Duys.

Washington, D. C., July 21, 1897. The completion of the tariff bill by the senate has given the importers a much more accurate idea of what its final provisions are to be and they now seem to be engaged in the final round of gathering into their warehouses every article upon which the proposed new law is likely to increase the rates of duty. The treasury receipts this month have averaged more than a million dollars a day for the business days of the month and it is evident that the rush of importations is going to continue up to the very day of the final enactment of the new law.

This means, of course, that the revenue during the first few months of the new law will be light. Careful estimates made by experts lead to the conclusion that much more than a year's supply of foreign wools have been brought into the country in the past four months and that in many other articles the requirements for a year are now 'n warehouses, duty paid. It is not improbable that the custom reseipta under the new law may drop In its first two or three months to a lower point than has been known in many years, perhaps in the memory of this generation. If this proves to be the fact the people should and doubtless understand the cause—the enormous importations which have been made in view of the expected increase

No other tariff law in the memory of the present generation has offered this

"Burrah for the Diagter Bill." corresponding four months of the pre-

The following tables show the importations of duitable and non-duitable goods during March. April, May and June of the present year compared with the corresponding months in last Importation of articles free of duty March to July, 1896-97. Importation of dutiable March to July, 1896-97. 43,650,900 Some idea of the loss of revenue of the Dingley bill occasioned by these large importations will be shown by the increased customs receipts March April, May and June of 1897 as comared with those months of the preceding year. This comparison will not of course show the entire loss of revenue to the Dingley law, because the duty which would have been collected upon these same articles under that law are several millions in excess of the rates which have been collected on them under the present tariff, but even these figures give something of an idea of the shortage in the customs revenues which may be expected under the Dingley law during its first few

coding year, are as follows: Custom receirts March to July, 1896.

months by reason of the importations

which preceded its enactment. The

customs receipts in the past four

months compared with those of the

\$22,833 R-A \$13,344,215 10,349,793 21,560,151 J. H. WILLIAMS.

South American Ignorance.

The imports from the United States to the Argentine Republic in 1896 amounted to \$11,210,475. The exports from the Argentine Republic to the United States amounted to \$6,401,362. These official figures show the difference in the commercial balance between your country and mine of \$5. 000,000 against the Argentine Republic.-Carlos Lix Klett, editor from the

Argentine Republic, at Cincinnati, O. It is surprising how intensely ignorant our South American friends are of the actual trade affairs of their own countries. As a matter of fact, during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1896, we bought from Argentina goods worth \$9,313,385 admitting almost the whole of them free of duty, only \$379,141 worth paying any tariff through our customs department. On the other hand, we sold only \$5,491,216 worth of American goods for shipment to Argentina. Instead of the trade balance being \$5,000,000 against the Argentine Republic, it was \$3,822,169 against the United States.

Japanese Protection. A special dispatch from Berne, Switzerland, says that the Bundesrath has refused to ratify the commercial treaty with Japan, owing to the prohibitive duty placed upon clocks and

watches.

recently protested against certain Pro- may not pull together in harmony stock of nearly every class of foreign | tective features of the Dingley tariff! | fall

REPUBLICAN HOT SHOT.

Indications now warrant the assertion that the new tariff law will be sufficient to meet the running expenses of the government after the first few months of its operation. The fact that it will not produce sufficient mensy to meet running expenses in its early history will be because of the fact that several months' supply of foreign goods including a year's supply of foreign wool, have been imported into the country during the consideration of the bill, and consequently the imports of the first few months will be comparalively light and the earnings of the law correspondingly small.

The bounty on beet sugar was the closing proposition of the Republican senators at Washington. All other work upon the tariff bill had been completed. A proposition to pay a quarter of a cent per pound bounty on all best sugar produced in the United States during five years after the enactment of the pending tariff bill was offered by Senator Allison, and would have been promptly passed but for the threat of Chairman Jones of the Democratic national committee and other Democratic senators, who announced that they would delay the passage of the bill indefinitely rather than allow the insertion of this provision of the bill. It is well enough that the people of the United States should understand that it was the Democratic party in the senate, led by the chairman of the Democratic national committee, which threatened to filibuster indefinitely and thus delay the tariff bill, for which the people are asking, rather than consent to this slight encouragement of the best sugar industry in which the farmers

Thank You, Mr. President.



of the United States are so greatly in-

"It is in such times as these that demagogues thrive; it is in just such times that they should be shunned. They can lead men astray, but they can not correct a single real or imaginary grievance under which men suffer. There is too much demagogueism abroad in the land; there is too much faise doctrine taught pertaining to governmental functions; there is too much encouragement of the spirit of socialism, and all that it implies, including communistic and chimerical schemes for a 'social democracy,' socalled; there is too much toleration of disrespect for courts and constituted authorities; there is too much clamor for class legislation; there is too much inculcation of the idea that men can become rich without effort-by the mere flat of the government instead of earning wealth in the good old fashloned way; and there is too much attention paid to cranks, bistherskites, and political adventurers, entitled to no consideration, but who seem to have obtained the public ear, and are seeking to pull down the pillars of society." - David Bennett Hill.

Indications warrant the belief that the new tariff law will be satisfactory to a larger number of people than any other tariff measure ever put upon the statute books in this country.

The prosperity already visible among the farmers and the prospect that it is to be continued has been recognized by the financiers of the east, who have just issued orders to their representatives in the Mississippi valley to return to the liberal business methods which existed prior to the present depression by making farm loans freely at low rates of interest.

Silver leaders are quarreling among themselves, Mr. Bryan having indicated great dissatisfaction over the fact that all features of the Chicago platform, except that of 16 to 1, are being neglected by the Remocrats in many states, while Mr. Towne, on the other hand, is reported as urging that this course be followed and all features of the Chicago platform, except silver, ig-

The newk tariff law will thoroughly meet the popular demand, changes made by the conference committee being such as to bring it thoroughly in line with the wishes of the people, especially those features relating to sugar, wool. and other agricultural interests.

It is rumored that Mr. Bryan will find himself so busy in Nebraska during the coming campaign that he will not have time to go to Ohio for those three hundred speeches which he promised. The fact is, the Ohio convention gave William J. a cold shoulder by omitting to do anything for him except to give him "three cheers" when his name was brought to the front. Whether Ohio is tired of Bryan, or Bryan is tired of Ohio, is a little uncertain, but then And this is the same Japan that so is, nevertheless, a possibility that the