

TALMAGE'S SERMON.

"RUSTICITY IN A PALACE" SUNDAY'S SUBJECT.

Preached from the Text: Genesis, Chapter XLV., Verse 28, as follows: "I Will Go and See Him Before I Die."—Jacob's Great Years.



JACOB had long since passed the hundred year milestone. In those times people were distinguished for longevity. In the centuries after, persons lived to great age. Galen, the most celebrated physician of his time, took so little of his own medicine, that he lived to one hundred and forty years.

Among the grand old people of whom we have record was Jacob, the shepherd of the text. But he had a bad lot of boys. They were jealous and ambitious and every way unprincipled. Joseph, however, seemed to be an exception, but he had been gone many years, and the probability was that he was dead.

The centenarian is sitting dreaming over the past when he hears a wagon rumbly to the front door. He gets up and goes to the door to see who has arrived, and his long absent sons from Egypt come in and announce to him that Joseph, instead of being dead, is living in an Egyptian palace, with all the investiture of prime minister, next to the king in the mightiest empire of all the world!

In that half delirium the old man mumbles something about his son Joseph. He says: "You don't mean Joseph, do you? My dear son who has been dead so long? You don't mean Joseph, do you?" But after they had fully resuscitated him, and the news was confirmed, the tears began their winding way down the crossroads of the wrinkles, and the sunken lips of the old man quiver, and he brings his bent fingers together as he says: "Joseph is yet alive. I will go and see him before I die."

It did not take the old man a great while to get ready. I warrant you. He put on his best clothes that the shepherd's wardrobe could afford. He got into the wagon, and though the aged are cautious and like to ride slow, the wagon did not get along fast enough for this old man; and when the wagon with the old man met Joseph's chariot coming down to meet him, and Joseph got out of the chariot and got into the wagon and threw his arms around his father's neck, it was an antithesis of royalty and rusticity, of simplicity and pomp, of filial affection and paternal love, which leaves us so much in doubt whether we had better laugh or cry, that we do both. So Jacob kept the resolution of the text—"I will go and see him before I die."

What a strong and unflinching thing is paternal attachment! Was it not almost time for Jacob to forget Joseph? The hot suns of many summers had blazed on the heath; the river Nile had overflowed and receded, overflowed and receded again and again; the seed had been sown and the harvest reaped; stars rose and set; years of plenty and years of famine had passed on; but the love of Jacob for Joseph in my text is overwhelmingly dramatic. Oh, that is a cord that is not snapped, though pulled on by many decades. Though when the little child expired the parent may not have been more than twenty-five years of age, and now they are seventy-five, yet the vision of the cradle, and the childish face, and the first utterances of the infantile lips are fresh to-day, in spite of the passage of a half century. Joseph was as fresh in Jacob's memory as ever, though at seventeen years of age the boy had disappeared from the old homestead. I found in our family record the story of an infant that had died fifty years before, and I said to my parents: "What is this record, and what does it mean?" Their chief answer was a long, deep sigh. It was yet to them a very tender sorrow. What does that all mean? Why, it means our children departed are ours yet, and that cord of attachment reaching across the years will hold us until it brings us together in the palace, as Jacob and Joseph were

brought together. That is one thing that makes old people die happy. They realize it is reunion with those from whom they have long been separated.

I am often asked as pastor—and every pastor is asked the question—"Will my children be children in heaven and forever children?" Well, there was no doubt a great change in Joseph from the time Jacob lost him and the time when Jacob found him—between the boy of seventeen years of age and the man in mid-life, his forehead developed with the great business of state; but Jacob was glad to get back Joseph anyhow, and it did not make much difference to the old man whether the boy looked older or looked younger. And it will be enough for that parent if he can get back that son, that daughter, at the gate of heaven, whether the departed loved one shall come a cherub or in full-grown angelhood. There must be a change wrought by that celestial climate and by those supernal years, but it will only be from loveliness to more loveliness, and from health to more radiant health. O, parent, as you think of the darling parting and white in membranous croup, I want you to know it will be gloriously bettered in that land where there has never been a death and where all the inhabitants will live on in the great future as long as God!

Joseph was Joseph notwithstanding the palace, and your child will be your child notwithstanding all the raining splendors of everlasting noon. What a thrilling visit was that of the old shepherd to the prime minister Joseph! I see the old countryman seated in the palace looking around at the mirrors and the fountains and the carved pillars, and oh! how he wishes that Rachel, his wife, was alive and she could have come with him to see their son in his great house. "Oh," says the old man within himself, "I do wish Rachel could be here to see all this!" I visited at the farm house of the father of Millard Fillmore when the son was president of the United States, and the octogenarian farmer entertained me until 11 o'clock at night telling me what great things he saw in his son's house at Washington, and what Daniel Webster said to him, and how grandly Millard treated his father in the White House. The old man's face was illumined with the story until almost midnight. He had just been visiting his son at the capitol. And I suppose it was something of the same joy that thrilled the heart of the old shepherd as he stood in the palace of the prime minister. It is a great day with you when your old parents come to visit you. Your little children stand around with great wide-open eyes, wondering how anybody could be so old. The parents cannot stay many days, for they are a little restless, and especially at nightfall, because they sleep better in their own bed; but while they tarry you somehow feel there is a benediction in every room in the house. They are a little feeble, and you make it as easy as you can for them, and you realize they will probably not visit you very often—perhaps never again. You go to their room after they have retired at night to see if the lights are properly put out, for the old people understand candle and lamp better than the modern apparatus of illumination. In the morning, with real interest in their health, you ask how they rested last night. Joseph, in the historical scene of the text, did not think any more of his father than you do of your parents. The probability is, before they leave your house they half spoil four children with kindnesses. Grandfather and grandmother are more lenient and indulgent to your children than they ever were with you. And what wonders of revelation in the bombie pocket of the one and the sleeve of the other! Blessed is that home where Christian parents come to visit! Whatever may have been the style of the architecture when they came, it is a palace before they leave. If they visit you fifty times, the two most memorable visits will be the first and the last. Those two pictures will hang in the hall of your memory while memory lasts, and you will remember just how they looked, and where they sat, and what they said, and at what figure of the carpet, and at what door sill they parted with you, giving you the final good-by. Do not be embarrassed if your father come to town and he have the manners of the shepherd, and if your mother come to town and there be in her hat no sign of costly millinery. The wife of the Emperor Theodosius said a wise thing when she said: "Husbands, remember what you lately were, and remember what you are, and be thankful."

By this time you all notice what kindly provision Joseph made for his father Jacob. Joseph did not say, "I can't have the old man around this place. How clumsy he would look climbing up these marble stairs, and walking over these mosaics! Then, he would be putting his hands upon some of these frescoes. People would wonder where that old greenhorn came from. He would shock all the Egyptian court with his manners at table. Besides that, he might get sick on my hands, and he might be querulous, and he might talk to me as though I were only a boy, when I am the second man in all the realm. Of course, he must not suffer, and if there is famine in his country—and I hear there is—I will send him some provisions; but I can't take a man from Padanaram and introduce him into this polite Egyptian court. What a nuisance it is to have poor relations!"

Joseph did not say that, but he rushed out to meet his father with perfect abandon of affection, and brought him up to the palace, and introduced him to the emperor, and provided for all the rest of his father's days, and nothing was too good for the old man while living; and when he was dead, Joseph, with military escort, took his

father's remains to the family cemetery. Would God all children were as kind to their parents.

If the father have large property, and he be wise enough to keep it in his own name, he will be respected by the heirs; but how often it is when the son finds his father in famine, as Joseph found Jacob in famine, the young people make it very hard for the old man. They are so surprised he eats with a knife instead of a fork. They are chagrined at his antediluvian habits. They are provoked because he cannot hear as well as he used to, and when he asks it over again, and the son has to repeat it, he hawks in the old man's ear, "I hope you hear that!" How long he must wear the old coat or the old hat before they get him a new one! How chagrined they are at his independence of the English grammar! How long he hangs on! Seventy years and not gone yet! Seventy-five years and not gone yet! Eighty years and not gone yet! Will he ever go? They think it of no use to have a doctor in his last sickness, and go up to the drug store and get something that makes him worse, and economize on a coffin, and beat the undertaker down to the last point, giving a note for the reduced amount which they never pay! I have officiated at obsequies of aged people where the family have been so inordinately resigned to Providence that I felt like taking my text from Proverbs, "The eye that mocketh at his father, and refuseth to obey his mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it." In other words, such an ingrate ought to have a flock of crows for pallbearers. I congratulate you if you have the honor of providing for aged parents. The blessing of the Lord God of Joseph and Jacob will be on you.

I rejoice to remember that though my father lived in a plain house the most of his days, he died in a mansion provided by the filial piety of a son who had achieved a fortune. There the octogenarian sat, and the servants waited on him, and there were plenty of horses and plenty of carriages to convey him, and a bower in which to sit on long summer afternoons, dreaming over the past; and there was not a room in the house where he was not welcome, and there were musical instruments of all sorts to regale him; and when life had passed, the neighbors came out and expressed all honor possible, and carried him to the village Machpelah, and put him down beside the Rachel with whom he had lived more than half a century. Share your successes with the old people. The probability is, that the principles they inculcated achieved your fortune. Give them a Christian percentage of kindly consideration. Let Joseph divide with Jacob the pasture fields of Goshen and the glories of the Egyptian court.

And here I would like to sing the praises of the sisterhood who remained unmarried that they might administer to aged parents. The brutal world calls these self-sacrificing ones peculiar or angular; but if you have had as many annoyances as they have had, Xantippe would have been an angel compared with you. It is easier to take care of five rollicking, romping children than of one childish old man. Among the best women of our land are those who allowed the bloom of life to pass away while they were caring for their parents. While other maidens were asleep, they were soaking the old man's feet, or tucking up the covers around the invalid mother. While other maidens were in the cotillon, they were dancing attendance upon rheumatism and spreading plasters for the lame back of the septuagenarian, and heating catnip tea for insomnia.

In almost every circle of our kindred there has been some queen of self-sacrifice to whom jeweled hand after jeweled hand was offered in marriage, but who stayed on the old place because of the sense of filial obligation, until the health was gone and the attractiveness of personal presence had vanished. Brutal society may call such a one by a nickname. God calls her daughter, and heaven calls her saint, and I call her domestic martyr. A half-dozen ordinary women have not as much nobility as could be found in the smallest joint of the little finger of her left hand. Although the world has stood six thousand years, this is the first apotheosis of maidenhood, although in the long line of those who have declined marriage that they might be qualified for some especial mission are the names of Anna Ross, and Margaret Breckinridge, and Mary Shelton, and Anna Etheridge, and Georgiana Willels, the angels of the battlefields of Fair Oaks and Lookout Mountain, and Chancellorsville, and Cooper Shop Hospital; and though single life has been honored by the fact that the three grandest men of the Bible—John and Paul and Christ—were celibates.

Let the ungrateful world sneer at the maiden aunt, but God has a throne burnished for her arrival, and on one side of that throne in heaven there is a vase containing two jewels, the one brighter than the Kohinoor of London Tower, and the other larger than any diamond ever found in the districts of Golconda—the one jewel by the lapidary of the palace cut with the words: "Inasmuch as ye did it to father," the other jewel by the lapidary of the palace cut with the words: "Inasmuch as ye did it to mother." "Over the Hills to the Poorhouse" is the exquisite ballad of Will Carleton, who found an old woman who had been turned off by her prosperous sons; but I thank God I may find in my text, "Over the hills to the palace."

A Big Job.

Neil—I don't suppose the girl who married Jack Rappidge will ever have another idle moment as long as she lives. Belle—Why, dear? Neil—She says she married him to reform him.

MORE USEFUL THAN OUR YACHTS.



RECEIPTS ARE GOOD.

THE NEW LAW IS DOING GOOD WORK.

Treasury Experts Claim Little If Any Deficit for September, Notwithstanding the Vast Amount of Foreign Goods Yet in the Country.

(Washington Letter.)

The second month of the operation of the new tariff law is likely to relieve Democratic statesmen and orators of much of the surplus anxiety with which they have favored the country in regard to receipts under that measure. It is now apparent that the revenues of the second month of the operation of the Dingley law will reach twenty millions of dollars, which is more than that of the second month of the Wilson law, and that there will be little, if any, deficit for the month. The revenues in the first twenty-two days in the month amounted to \$15,692,455, and it is estimated by treasury experts that the total for the month will be \$20,000,000 in round numbers, while the expenditures will probably be little if any in excess of that sum.

This is in marked contrast with the operations of the second month of the Wilson law. The act went into effect, as did the Dingley law, within a few days of the close of the calendar month and its operations were thus calculated from the first day of the month following its enactment, as in the case in the statements which are being made with reference to the Dingley law. The Wilson law in its second month produced a deficit of \$13,573,800, while it now seems probable that there will be little if any deficit in the second month of the Dingley law. That the Dingley law should have been able in its first two months of operation to have produced as much or anything like as much revenue as did the Wilson law in the two corresponding months of its operation is remarkable, and is of itself an evidence that the Dingley law when the business of the country reaches its normal condition, will be an ample revenue producer. During the months prior to the final enactment of the Wilson law all dutiable goods upon which the rates of duty were reduced or removed were held back by importers in order that they might come in under the operations of that law. The result was an enormous increase in the customs revenues under that law the minute it went into operation. Indeed, the customs receipts in its first month, September, 1891, were larger than in any September during its entire history and were only exceeded in total amount on two or three occasions prior to the influx of foreign goods which preceded its final repeal. On the other hand, foreign goods were rushed into the country as everybody knows, at an almost unheard of rate during the five months preceding the enactment of the Dingley law, the effect being to almost paralyze the importations during the first few weeks after its final enactment. The increase in importations of foreign goods in the five months between the inauguration of President McKinley and the enactment of the Dingley law was \$105,347,632 in excess of that for the corresponding months of the preceding year, an increase of nearly 40 per cent over the normal importations of the corresponding period of the preceding year. The occasion for surprise then, is, not that the receipts under the Dingley law have been light, but on the contrary, that they have been as heavy as they are, up to this time, and that this act, laboring as it did under especially adverse circumstances, should have been able to outrun the Wilson law, which came in under such especially favorable circumstances as regards the customs end of its business. The following tables compare the importations during the five months preceding the enactment of the Wilson and Dingley laws respectively and the customs receipts in those months, and show clearly the advantages under which the Wilson law operated in the first months of its existence and the disadvantages under which the Dingley law now labors in the first months of its operations.

Table showing imports and customs receipts in the five months preceding the enactment of the Wilson law:

Month	Imports	Customs Receipts
April, 1891	\$60,090,037	\$10,176,691
May	56,812,727	9,798,067
June	51,783,712	8,858,876
July	65,302,965	8,427,338
August	51,697,072	11,804,914

Table showing importations and customs receipts during five months preceding the enactment of the Dingley law:

Month	Imports	Customs Receipts
March, 1897	\$76,351,441	\$22,833,556
April	101,322,406	24,454,351
May	79,358,147	16,885,011
June	83,183,021	21,560,152
July	53,790,407	16,966,801
Total	\$396,005,425	\$102,700,171

It will be seen from the above tables that the importations of foreign goods in the five months preceding the enactment of the Dingley law were \$396,005,425, against only \$285,685,614 in the corresponding five months prior to the enactment of the Wilson law. They also exceed the corresponding five months of the year 1896 by \$105,347,033, showing that the importations of the months between the inauguration of President McKinley and the signing of the Dingley bill were more than \$100,000,000 in excess of the normal. It will also be seen that the customs receipts in these five months of abnormal importation prior to the enactment of the Dingley law were more than double those of the five months prior to the enactment of the Wilson law, and that fully \$50,000,000 which under ordinary circumstances would have been collected during the months of August, September, October, November, and December of the present year was collected during the months of March, April, May, June and July, and that the Dingley law was thus robbed of an average of \$10,000,000 per month for the first five months of its operations. That the Dingley law would be ample in its revenue producing qualities under normal conditions is not doubted by the treasury officials.

"We have been watching it very closely," said Assistant Secretary Howell, "and I have no doubt whatever that the new law will give us an ample revenue after the treasury business returns to its normal condition. I have been studying these customs matters for many years in my long service in this department, and it is my deliberate judgment after a careful study of the workings of the new law during the two months that it has been in operation, comparing its work with that of other laws, for I have seen the work of many of them, that the new measure will give to the treasury all the revenue which it needs as soon as normal business conditions return. Indeed it is surprising to me that it has accomplished as much as it has during the past two months in view of the adverse conditions under which it went into operation, and nobody, whatever his politics or political views or ambitions may be, who will study its workings thus far carefully in the light of all conditions, it seems to me, can have any doubt upon this subject."

GEO. H. WILLIAMS.

Money in Their Pockets. The new Republican monster not only pulls money out of the pockets of all consumers who remain at home, but it puts its paw into the trunks of all returning travelers.—Wilmington, N. C., "Messenger."

Under the Democratic policy of Free-Trade it was impossible "to pull money out of the pockets" of Americans because there was no money in their pockets. Now they are getting well lined again with American dollars and all "patriots" are pleased to contribute their little mites to Uncle Sam's treasure chest.

The End of It.

It seems only to be a question of time when Great Britain must cease to export any tin plates to the United States, and that time may probably be here very soon.—Iron and Coal Trades' Review, England.

We hope so. This was the intent and purport of the McKinley tariff of 1890, and it is gratifying to learn, from an authoritative foreign source, that such a favorable result is being so quickly achieved.

REPUBLICAN OPINION.

Reports from the manufacturing districts, North and South, continue to show increased activity. Three large cordage mills at Isala, Ohio, which have been out of operation for several years, are being re-opened with a full force of men. The Wead paper mills at Malone, N. Y., which have been idle for two years, have been re-opened; the Bridgeton, Pa., woolen mills, which have been closed nearly three years, have resumed operations; two of the Ohio valley railroads have given orders for one thousand new box cars each, for use in the business which is being offered them, and which they are now unable to handle; the Cleveland rolling mills report a large order for bar steel from Birmingham, England, and an Ohio paper mill reports a contract of several thousand tons of print paper for the Japanese trade.

No better evidence of the actual return of business activity could be found than the official reports of bank clearances for the week ending September 18. They show the clearances to be fully fifty per cent greater than at this time a year ago, and seventy-five per cent in excess of those of the corresponding week two years ago. They are greater than at any time since January, 1893.

Is it that terrible "money power" that is destroying the crops all over the world for the purpose of giving American farmers higher prices and thus showing them the falsity of the wheat-and-silver theory? There is just as much sense in assuming that the money power could control the wind and weather and grasshoppers and other causes of foreign grain shortages as it was to assume last fall that a handful of financiers located in some mysterious secret chamber in London or elsewhere could control the legislation of the greatest and most intelligent nations of the world in behalf of the gold standard, as was asserted day to day and week to week during the entire campaign of 1896.

Is it the Dingley law or the fall of silver which is the cause of advances of all farm products in the last sixty days? There has been no occasion in which silver has fallen more rapidly than during the month of August, and no time in which all farm products have advanced more rapidly than during August and September. Since the Dingley law went into operation about the time that this advance came, it might be well to call upon Mr. Bryan for another paid syndicate article explaining the cause of this general advance.

The treasury department has over \$145,000,000 of gold in hand, and has had since the McKinley administration came in a larger gold surplus than at any time for a long period of years. This is in marked contrast with the conditions during the Democratic administration, when President Cleveland was compelled to sell bonds every now and then to keep up the hundred-million reserve.

Those people who are satisfied with Mr. Bryan's explanation of the cause in the advance in the price of wheat might do well to inquire of him about the advance of wool. He says the advance in wheat was due to a shortage abroad. There is no record of any considerable shortage abroad in wool, yet prices of wool have advanced sixty per cent, since the beginning of September, 1896, while silver has fallen twenty per cent in the same time.

The visit of Senators Mantle and Pettigrew to the Mikado of Japan to inquire why silver has been demonetized seems to have been a great loss of time and labor. Had they taken the trouble to examine the report of the director of the mint, which covers the value of Japan's silver coins during the past few years, they would have found it entirely unnecessary to take their trip across the Pacific, though that might be a very convenient trip for almost anybody to take providing the silver trust saw fit to pay expenses. The report of the director of the mint shows that the Japanese silver yen, which was worth 83-10 cents in 1891, was only worth 47-8-10 cents in 1897, all of which should have been sufficient information for anybody who wanted cold facts without a foreign junket as an accompaniment. Senators Pettigrew and Mantle having omitted to favor the people of this country with the result of their interview with the Mikado, the public may be able to work along with the information given in the following table, until the silver statesmen are heard from:

Year	Value of Silver Yen.	Value of Gold Yen.
1888	75.3	99.7
1889	73.4	99.7
1890	75.2	99.7
1891	83.1	99.7
1892	74.5	99.7
1893	66.1	99.7
1894	55.6	99.7
1895	49.1	99.7
1896	52.9	99.7
1897 (July)	47.8	99.7

Last week's report covering the business failures in the United States is more encouraging than any which has been presented since the upward tendency of business which came with the inauguration of President McKinley. The entire number of business failures reported last week was only 169, which was less than half the number in the corresponding week of September, 1893, the first year of Cleveland's second term, and vastly less than any corresponding week during the entire two years of his occupancy of the presidential chair.