

TALMAGE'S SERMON.

SOME LESSONS IN CHRISTIAN WARFARE.

Encouraging Words for Those Engaged in the Battles of Life—God's Soldiers Never Turn Backward—Divine Promises.

(Copyright, 1900, Louis Klopsch, N. Y.) In this discourse Dr. Talmage follows Joshua on his triumphal march and speaks encouraging words to all who are engaged in the battle of this life; text, Joshua 1, 5, "There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life."

Moses was dead. A beautiful tradition says the Lord kissed him and in that act drew forth the soul of the dying lawgiver. He had been buried, only one person at the funeral, the same one who kissed him. But God never takes a man away from any place of usefulness until he has some one ready to replace him. The Lord does not go looking around amid a great variety of candidates to find some one especially fitted for the vacated position. He makes a man for that place. Moses has passed off the stage, and Joshua, the hero, puts his foot on the platform of history so solidly that all the ages echo with the tread. He was a magnificent fighter, but he always fought on the right side, and he never fought unless God told him to fight. He got his military equipment from God, who gave him the promise at the start, "There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life." God fulfilled this promise, although Joshua's first battle was with the spring freshet, the next with a stone wall, the next leading on a regiment of whipped cowards and the next battling against darkness, wheeling the sun and the moon into his battalion, and the last against the king of terrors, death—five great victories.

As a rule when the general of an army starts out in a war he would like to have a small battle in order that he may get his own courage up and rally his troops and get them drilled for greater conflicts, but the first undertaking of Joshua was greater than the leveling of Fort Pulaski, or the assault of Gibraltar, or the overthrow of the Bastille. It was the crossing of the Jordan at the time of the spring freshet. The snows of Mount Lebanon had just been melting, and they poured down into the valley, and the whole valley was a raging torrent. So the Canaanites stand on one bank, and they look across and see Joshua and the Israelites, and they laugh and say: "Aha, they cannot disturb us until the freshets fall! It is impossible for them to reach us." But after awhile they look across the water, and they see a movement in the army of Joshua. They say: "What is the matter now? Why, there must be a panic among those troops, and they are going to fly, or perhaps they are going to try to march across the river Jordan. Joshua is a lunatic." But Joshua, the chieftain, looks at his army and cries, "Forward, march!" and they start for the bank of the Jordan. One mile ahead go two priests carrying a glittering box four feet long and two feet wide. It is the ark of the covenant. And they come down, and no sooner do they just touch the rim of the water with their feet than, by an Almighty fiat, Jordan parts. The army of Joshua marches right on without getting their feet wet, over the bottom of the river, a path of chalk and broken shells and pebbles, until they get to the other bank. Then they lay hold of the oleanders and tamarisks and willows and pull themselves up a bank 30 or 40 feet high, and having gained the other bank they clap their shields and their cymbals and sing the praises of the God of Joshua. But no sooner have they reached the bank than the waters begin to dash and roar, and with a terrific rush they break loose from their strange anchorage.

No Going Backward. As the hand of the Lord God is taken away from the thus uplifted waters—waters perhaps uplifted half a mile—they rush down, and some of the unbelieving Israelites say: "Alas, alas, what a misfortune! Why could not those waters have staid parted? Because perhaps we may want to go back. O Lord, we are engaged in a risky business. Those Canaanites may eat us up. How if we want to go back? Would it not have been a more complete miracle if the Lord had parted the waters to let us come through and kept them parted to let us go back if we are defeated?" My friends, God makes no provision for a Christian retreat. He clears the path all the way to Canaan. To go back is to die. The same gatekeepers that swung back the amethystine and crystalline gate of the Jordan to let Israel pass through now swing shut the amethystine and crystalline gate of going back. Victory ahead, but water 30 feet deep behind, surging to death and darkness and woe. But you say, "Why did not these Canaanites, when they had such a splendid chance, standing on the top of the bank 30 or 40 feet high, completely demolish those poor Israelites down in the river?" I will tell you why. God had made a promise, and he was going to keep it. "There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life."

But this is no place for the host to stop. Joshua gives the command, "Forward, march!" In the distance there is a long grove of trees, and at the end of the grove is a city. It is a city with arbors, a city with walls seeming to reach to the heavens, to

buttress the very sky. It is the great metropolis that commands the mountain pass. It is Jericho. That city was afterward captured by Pompey and once by Herod the Great and once again by the Mohammedans, but this campaign the Lord plans. There shall be no swords, no shields, no battering ram. There shall be only one weapon of war and that a ram's horn. The horn of the slain ram was sometimes taken, and holes were punctured in it, and then the musician would put the instrument to his lips, and he would run his fingers over this rude musical instrument and make a great deal of sweet harmony for the people. That was the only kind of weapon. Seven priests were to take these rude, rustic musical instruments, and they were to go around the city every day for six days—one day for six days—and then one the seventh day they were to go around blowing these rude musical instruments seven times, and then at the close of the seventh blowing of the ram's horns on the seventh day the perforation of the whole scene was to be a shout, at which those great walls should tumble from capstone to base.

Victory Follows Defeat. The seven priests with the rude musical instruments pass all around the city walls on the first day and score a failure. No so much as a piece of plaster broke loose from the wall, not so much as a loosened rock, not so much as a piece of mortar lost from its place. "There," say the unbelieving Israelites, "did I not tell you so? Why, those ministers are fools. The idea of going around the city with those musical instruments and expecting in that way to destroy it. Joshua has been spoiled. He thinks because he has overthrown and conquered the spring freshet he can overthrow the stone wall. Why, it is not philosophic. Do you not see there is no relation between the blowing of these musical instruments and the knocking down of the wall? It is not philosophic." And I suppose there were many wiseacres who stood with their brows knitted and with the forefinger of the right hand to the forefinger of the left hand arguing it all out and showing that it was not possible that such a cause could produce such an effect. And I suppose that night in the encampment there was plenty of caricature, and if Joshua had been nominated for any high military position he would not have received many votes. Joshua's stock was down. The second day the priests blowing the musical instruments go around the city and again a failure. The third day and a failure, the fourth day and a failure, fifth day and a failure, sixth day and a failure. The seventh day comes, the climacteric day. Joshua is up early in the morning and examines the troops, walks all about, looks at the city wall. The priests start to make the circuit of the city. They go all around one, all around twice, three times, four times, five times, six times, seven times, and a failure. There is only one more thing to do, and that is to utter a great shout. I see the Israelite army straightening themselves up, filling their lungs for a vociferation such as never was heard before and never heard after. Joshua feels that the hour has come, and he cries out to his host, "Shout, for the Lord hath given you the city." All together the troops shout: "Down, Jericho! Down Jericho!" And the long line of solid masonry begins to quiver and to move and to rock. Stand firm under! She falls! Crash go the walls and temples, the towers, the palaces, the air blackened with the dust. The huzzas of the victorious Israelites and the groan of the conquered Canaanites commingle, and Joshua, standing there in the debris of the walls, hears a voice saying, "There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life."

The Savior's Deliverance. Only one house spared. Who lives there? Some great king? No. Some woman distinguished for great kindly deeds? No. She had been conspicuous for her crimes. It is the house of Rahab. Why was her house spared? Because she had been a great sinner? No, but because she repented, demonstrating to all the ages that there is mercy for the chief of sinners. The red cord of divine injunction reaching from her window to the ground, so that when the people saw the red cord they knew it was the divine indication that they should not disturb the premises, making as think of the divine cord of a Savior's deliverance, the red cord of a Savior's kindness, the red cord of a Savior's mercy, the red cord of our rescue. Mercy for the chief of sinners. Put your trust in that God, and no damage shall befall you. When our world shall be more terribly surrounded than was Jericho, even by the trumpets of the judgment day and the hills and the mountains, the metal bones and ribs of nature shall break, they who have had Rahab's faith shall have Rahab's deliverance. When wrapped in fire the realms of ether glow And heaven's last thunder shakes the earth below Thou, undismayed, shalt o'er the ruins smile And light thy torch at nature's funeral pile. But Joshua's troops may not halt here. The command is, "Forward, march!" There is the city of Ai. It must be taken. How shall it be taken? A scouting party comes back and says: Joshua, we can do that without you. It is going to be a very easy job. You must stay here while we go and capture it." They march with a small regiment in front of that city. The men of Ai look at them and give one yell, and the Israelites run like reindeer. The northern troops at Bull Run

did not make such rapid time as these Israelites with the Canaanites after them. They never cut such a sorry figure as when they were on the retreat. You who go out in the battles of God with only half a force instead of your taking the men of Ai the men of Ai will take you. Look at the church of God on the retreat. The Bornean cannibals ate up Munson, the missionary. "Fall back!" said a great many Christian people. "Fall back, O church of God! Borneo will never be taken. Do you not see the Bornean cannibals have eaten up Munson, the missionary?" Tyndall delivers his lecture at the University of Glasgow, and a great many good people say: "Fall back, O church of God! Do you not see that Christian philosophy is going to be overcome by worldly philosophy? Fall back?" Geology plunges its crowbar into the mountains, and there are a great many people who say: "Scientific investigation is going to overthrow the Mosaic account of the creation. Fall back!"

God's Soldiers Meet Advance. But friends of God never have had any right to fall back. Joshua falls on his face in chagrin. It is the only time you ever see the back of his head. He falls on his face and begins to whine, and he says, "O Lord God, wherefore hast thou at all brought this people over Jordan to deliver us into the hands of the Amorites, to destroy us? Would to God we had been content and dwelt on the other side of Jordan. For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land shall hear of it and shall environ us round and cut off our name from the earth." I am very glad Joshua said that. Before it seemed as if he were a supernatural being and therefore could not be an example to us, but I find he is a man, he is only a man. Just as sometimes you find a man under severe opposition or in a bad state of physical health, or worn out with overwork, lying down and sighing about being defeated. I am encouraged when I hear this cry of Joshua as he lies in the dust. God comes and rouses him. How does he rouse him? By complimentary apostrophe? No. He says "Get thee up. Wherefore liest thou upon thy face?" Joshua rises, and, I warrant you, with a mortified look. But his old courage comes back. The fact was that it was not his battle. If he had been in it he would have gone on to victory. He gathers his troops around him and says: "Now, let us go up and capture the city of Ai. Let us go up right away." They march on. He puts the majority of the troops behind a ledge of rocks in the night, and then he sends comparatively small regiments up in front of the city. The men of Ai come out with a shout. The small regiments of Israelites in stratagem fall back, and fall back, and when all the men of Ai have left the city and are in pursuit of these scattered, or seemingly scattered, regiments, Joshua stands on a rock—I see his locks flying in the wind as he points his spear toward the doomed city, and that is the signal. The men rush out from behind the rocks and take the city, and it is put to the torch, and then these Israelites in the city march down, and the flying Israelites return, and between these two waves of Israelites press the men of Ai are destroyed, and the Israelites gain the victory; and while I see the curling smoke of that destroyed city on the sky, and while I hear the huzzas of the Israelites and the groan of the Canaanites, Joshua hears something louder than it all, ringing and echoing through his soul, "There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life."

No Place to Stop. But this is no place for the host of Joshua to stop. "Forward, march!" cries Joshua to the troops. There is the city of Gibeon. It has put itself under the protection of Joshua. They send word: "There are five kings after us. They are going to destroy us. Send troops quick. Send us help right away." Joshua has a three-day march, more than double quick. On the morning of the third day he is before the enemy. There are two long lines of battle. The battle opens with great slaughter, but the Canaanites soon discover something. They say: "That is Joshua. That is the man who conquered the spring freshet and knocked down the stone walls of Jericho and destroyed the city of Ai. There is no use fighting." They sound a retreat, and as they begin to retreat Joshua and his host spring upon them like a panther, pursuing them over the rocks, while the catapults of the sky pour a volley of hailstones into the valley, and all the artillery of the heavens, with bullets of iron, pound the Canaanites against the ledges of Bethoron. "Oh," says Joshua, "this is surely a victory!" "But do you not see the sun is going down?" Look out when a good man makes the Lord his ally. Joshua raises his face, radiant with joy, and looks at the descending sun over Gibeon and at the faint crescent of the moon, for you know the queen of the night sometimes will linger around the palaces of the day. Pointing one hand at the descending sun and the other at the faint crescent of the moon, in the name of that God who shaped the worlds and moves the worlds he cries: "Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon, and thou, moon, in the valley of Ajalon!" They halted. Whether it was by refraction of the sun's rays or by the stopping of the whole planetary system I do not know and do not care. I leave it to the Christian Scientists and the infidel scientists to settle that question, while I tell you I have seen the same thing. "What?" say you. "Not the sun standing still?" Yes. The same miracle is performed nowadays. The wicked do not live out half their day, and their sun sets at noon.

GOOD MEN IN POLITICS

The Minnesota Primary Law Increases their Number.

People Name the Candidates When they Register.

"The Minnesota primary-election system marks a new era in politics, and is a revolution not even second to the Australian ballot." Thus said Senator Washburn of Minnesota, after he had watched the results of the new direct, concurrent primary-election law, used for the first time in Hennepin county, Minnesota, on Sept. 18 last. Ever since the public has been operating under a convention system it has always been urged that if the people would only take an interest in the primaries and the caucuses there would not be so many mistakes in the selection of candidates. If this is true, then the most successful primary reform is one that will bring out the total vote. By the plan of holding a concurrent primary on registration day, Hennepin county brought out more votes at the primary election than it did at the previous general election, the percentage being 110 in favor of the primary law. Therefore, from that standpoint alone, it was a success. After the law was enacted by the Minnesota legislature and before its actual test the principle found such favor that it was made part of Wisconsin's Republican platform, entered into the party operation of Oregon, is being officially inquired into in Indiana and enlisted the services of earnest men who are even now working for its adoption in New York. The Minneapolis object lesson proved the practical nature of the plan and its friends from one end of the country to the other are determined that its full efficacy shall be brought to bear upon the business of government.

ignation of office, in a proportional number of ballots, the theory being that no name should have the advantage of appearing at the top on all the ballots. Should other parties enter the contest the number of tickets would be increased, one ticket for each party going to every voter.

No "Out-and-Dried" System. Each voter marks one ballot only, returning both ballots pinned together as he received them to the judge, who places them in the box. Later the crosses on the marked ballot are credited to the respective candidates and the unmarked ballot is returned to the city clerk. If a voter blunderingly marks both ballots, only the one containing the greater number of marks is counted. As a result of the first primaries held in Minneapolis under the law, a much higher class of men became the duly nominated candidates than ever before. Men who had refused steadily to be drawn into the "leg-pulling" quagmire of old-style primaries and conventions now came to the front and accepted candidacy. A most significant development was the fact that every professional office-seeker whose name appeared on the ballot was rejected—a consummation that never could have been achieved under "machine" rule. In forty-eight hours everybody knows who is nominated for every office in the county. Perhaps the most significant com-

people into the belief that the "direct" primaries. "One of these senators has a proposed act ready providing that each party committee can order 'direct' primaries on any day, to be operated under its personal supervision. That is the way they will pretend to do away with the 'evil' of the present law, which permits any man to vote either ticket." There is no doubt, as Mr. Day indicates, that many of the politicians are quietly fighting the present law, but as well did the law take with the masses, that while the politicians have striven to secure an organization to repeal it, the prospective legislators are afraid of the public protest that would follow, and instead of a repeal, the law will in all probability be extended over the entire state. In regard to the charge of cumbersome made against the law by machine politicians, its author says: "At first it was urged that the law was cumbersome and its machinery impossible of application. It would require a ticket twelve feet long, not over twenty votes could be polled in an hour; the vote could not be counted in a week, and he law was unconstitutional. All these assertions have been tested by actual trial and have been shown to be totally without foundation. The ticket was eighteen inches long, the voters voted more rapidly than at general elections and the count was accomplished in a few hours. Certain alleged improvements have been suggested. "It has been suggested that a voter be forced to make affidavit as to his party and receive but one ballot. That makes a public ballot and would keep

PRIMARY ELECTION BALLOT

DEMOCRATIC PARTY

List of Candidates for Nomination to be Voted for in 12th District, 3d Ward, City of Minneapolis, Hennepin County

Table with columns for Name, Party, and Vote for. Candidates include James C. Hayes, George R. Robinson, John W. Archander, A. B. Choate, William M. Vandenberg, Robert B. Odell, S. A. Stockwell, and William H. Williams.

DEMOCRATIC SPECIMEN BALLOT.

Instructions for voters: To vote for a person, mark a cross (X) in the square at the right of the name of the person for whom you desire to vote.

PRIMARY ELECTION BALLOT

REPUBLICAN PARTY

List of Candidates for Nomination to be Voted for in 12th District, 3d Ward, City of Minneapolis, Hennepin County

Table with columns for Name, Party, and Vote for. Candidates include John A. Schlerer, Albert A. Ames, James Elmer, Charles B. Laybourn, Loren Fletcher, Otto S. Langum, Hugh R. Scott, Lames A. Cowdit, and William S. Jenkins.

REPUBLICAN SPECIMEN BALLOT.

Instructions for voters: To vote for a person, mark a cross (X) in the square at the right of the name of the person for whom you desire to vote.

Attraction for Voters.

The secret of the high merit of the law is that it draws those men who have hitherto held aloof from primaries, conventions and the polls; from disgust at the time dishonored methods there obtaining, to take part in the business of government. Under the law nominations are not made by conventions, but by the people themselves, direct. It destroys the power of political machines and selfish employers to influence their dependents through open threat or secret terror. In the voting booth at the direct primary every voter can vote with security. How he has voted can never be known unless he should himself choose to reveal it.

Author of the Law Talks.

Oscar F. G. Day, author of the concurrent primary law, is a newspaper man by profession, being editor of the Minneapolis Tribune. In an article in that paper the day after the primaries, Sept. 19, he said: "Every man who has been even remotely identified with professional politics in the past was defeated. Three of the best aldermanic candidates nominated avowed that they never would have encountered the cumbersome processes and devious strategy of a convention, but would go before the people under the new primary law. "It has brought out a class of men for candidates that would never run before, and the success of these men will bring out a larger number of their kind at the next primary. "There were polled on this one primary election 37,320 votes, and without any friction, some district voting almost the limit of 400 votes allowed by law to a precinct. "Out in the country, where they had never turned out to caucuses, the farmers hitched up their teams and drove to town and nearly the entire country vote was polled. "By combining registration and primary the expense to the people is not greatly increased and the \$10 which each candidate pays the county auditor helps to meet the bills. "Two state senators have laws framed to present to the next legislature which they claim are 'modifications and improvements' upon the Minnesota direct primary law. They are copies of other laws, all of them 'fake' in their nature, which were passed in different states to delude

Imported Raisins Are High.

Imported raisins will be high this Christmas, owing to a considerable shortage in the Malaga crop. A great storm on September 15 swept over the famous Malaga raisin district doing great damage not only to the grapes still on the vines, but to those that had been cut and dried. This heavy storm was followed by a succession of cloudy and rainy days, which made it impossible for the grapes to dry properly, and besides rendered worthless a large quantity of grapes that were still on the vines. It is now estimated that the raisin crop is short fully 50 per cent.—Washington Letter Bookkeeper Eagle.

"Stick" in Soda Water Pays Tax...

The old, old joke about the wink at the soda water fountain has received a new lease of life from the stern and unobjectionable department of internal revenue. A few weeks ago one F. G. Heine, in the well-known and bustling metropolis of Manhattan, Minn., asked the collector if he would have to pay the special tax on a retail liquor dealer if he "put a stick" occasionally

Washington Letter Bookkeeper Eagle.

For many years the municipal authorities of Oxford, England, have thought the valuation put on their university buildings for taxation purposes too low. A new valuation has been made, by which the value of the buildings will be assessed in value. The university officials are angry at the new valuation, and have petitioned the government to have the valuation set aside. The government has refused to do so, and the university officials are now petitioning the government to have the valuation set aside.