

TALMAGE'S SERMON.

"SEEKERS FOR WISDOM" THE SUBJECT LAST SUNDAY.

Go to the Ant, Thou Sluggard, Consider Her Ways and No Wise, Having No Guide, Overseer or Ruler, She Provideth Her Meat...

Copyright, 1904, by Louis Klopsch, N. Y. Washington, April 28.—In this discourse Dr. Talmage draws his illustrations from a realm seldom utilized for moral and religious purposes; text, Proverbs, vi, 6-8, "Go to the ant, thou sluggard, consider her ways and be wise, which, having no guide, overseer or ruler, provideth her meat in the summer and gathereth her food in the harvest."

The most of Solomon's writings have perished. They have gone out of existence as thoroughly as the 20 books of Fliny and most of the books of Aeschylus and Euripides and Varro and Quintilian. Solomon's Song and Ecclesiastes and Proverbs, preserved by inspiration, are a small part of his voluminous productions. He was a great scientist. One verse in the Bible suggests that he was a botanist, a zoologist, an ornithologist, an ichthyologist, and knew all about reptilia. I Kings, iv, 33, "He spake of trees, from the cedar tree that is in Lebanon even unto the hyssop that springeth out of the wall; he spake also of beasts and of fowl and of creeping things and of fishes." Besides all these scientific works, he composed 3,000 proverbs and 1,005 songs.

Although Solomon lived long before the microscope was constructed, he was also an insectologist and watched and described the spider build its suspension bridge of silk from tree to tree, calling it the spider's web, and he notices its skillful foothold in climbing the smooth wall of the throne room in Jerusalem, saying, "The spider taketh hold with her hands and is in king's palaces." But he is especially interested in the ant and recommends its habits as worthy of study and emulation, saying, "Go to the ant, thou sluggard, consider her ways and be wise, which, having no guide, overseer or ruler, provideth her meat in the summer and gathereth her food in the harvest."

Not Altogether Commandable. But Solomon would not commend all the habits of the ant, for some of them are as bad as some of the habits of the human race. Some of these small creatures are desperadoes and murderers. Now and then they marshal themselves into hosts and march in straight line and come upon an encampment of their own race and destroy its occupants, except the young, whom they carry into captivity, and if the army come back without any such captives they are not permitted to enter, but are sent forth to make more successful conquest. Solomon gives no commendation to such sanguinary behavior among insects, any more than he would have commended sanguinary behavior among men. These little creatures have sometimes wrought fearful damage, and they have undermined a town in New Granada, which in time may drop into the abyss they have dug for it.

But what are the habits which Solomon would enjoin when he says, "Consider her ways and be wise." First of all, providence, forethought, anticipation of coming necessities. I am sorry to say these qualities are not characteristic of all the ants. These creatures of God are divided into granivorous and carnivorous. The latter are not frugal, but the former are frugal. While the air is warm and moving about is not hindered by ice or snow, bank they import their cargoes of food. They bring in their caravan of provisions; they haul in their long train of wheat or corn or oats. The farmers are not more busy in July and August in reaping their harvest than are the ants busy in July and August reaping their harvest. They stack them away; they pile them up. They question when they have enough. They aggregate a sufficient amount to last them until the next warm season. When winter opens they are ready. Blow, ye wintry blasts! Bang your icicles from the tree branches! Imbed all the highways under snowdrifts! Enough for all the denizens of the hills. Hunger shut out and plenty sits within. God, who feedeth every living thing, has blessed the ant hill.

Wrecked by Extravagance. There are women who at the first increase of their husband's resources wreck all on an extravagant wardrobe. There are men who at the prospect of larger prosperity build houses they will never be able to pay for. There are people with \$4,000 a year income who have not one dollar laid up for a rainy day. It is a ghastly dishonesty practiced on the next generation. Such men deserve bankruptcy and impoverishment. In almost every man's life there comes a winter of cold misfortune. Prepare for it while you may. Whose thermometer has not sometimes stood below zero? What ship has never been caught in a storm? What regiment at the front never got into a battle? Have at least as much foresight as the insectile world. Examine the pantries of the ant hills in this April weather, and you will find that last summer's supply is not yet exhausted. Examine them next July, and you will find them being replenished. "Go to the ant, thou sluggard, consider her ways and be wise, which, having no guide, overseer or ruler, provideth her meat in the summer and gathereth her food in the harvest."

This is no argument for miserliness. Avarice and penuriousness destroy a man about as soon as any of the other vices. We have heard of those who

entered their iron money vault for business purposes and the door accidentally shut and they were suffocated, their corpse not discovered until the next day. But every day and all up and down the streets of our cities there are men, body, mind and soul, forever fast in their own money vaults. Accumulation of bonds, mortgages and government securities and town lots and big farms just for the pleasure of accumulation is despicable, but the putting aside of a surplus for your self-defense when your brain has halted or your right hand has forgotten its cunning or your old age needs a man servant or for the support of other when you can no more be a breadwinner for your household—that is right, that is beautiful, that is Christian, that is divinely approved. That shows that you have taken Solomon's ant hill for an object lesson.

Does Not Decline Work. Furthermore, go to the ant and consider that it does not decline work because it is insignificant. The fragment of seed it hauls into its habitation may be so small that the unaided eye cannot see it, but the insectile work goes on, the carpenter ant at work above ground, the mason ant at work under ground. Some of these creatures mix the leaves of the fir and the catkins of the pine for the roof or wall of their tiny abode, and others go out as hunters looking for food, while others in domestic duties stay at home. Twenty specks of the food they are moving toward their granary put upon a balance would hardly make the scales quiver. All of it work on a small scale. There is no use in our refusing a mission because it is insignificant. Anything that God in his providence puts before us to do is important. The needle has its office as certainly as the telescope and the spade as a parliamentary scroll. You know what became of the man in the parable of the talents who buried the one talent instead of putting it to practical and accumulative use. His apology was of no avail.

There is no need of our wasting time and energy in longing for some other sphere. There are plenty of people to do the big and resounding work of the church and the world. No lack of brigadier generals or master builders or engineers for bridging Niagara's or tunneling Rocky mountains. For every big enterprise of the world a dozen candidates. What we want is private soldiers in the common ranks, masons not ashamed to wield a trowel, candidates for ordinary work to be done in ordinary ways in ordinary places. Right where we are there is something that God would have us do. Let us do it, though it may seem to be as unimportant as the rolling of a grain of corn into an ant hill.

Furthermore, go to the ant and consider its indefatigableness. If by the accidental stroke of your foot or the removal of a timber the cities of the insectile world are destroyed, instantly they go to rebuilding. They do not sit around mooping. At it again in a second. Their fright immediately gives way to their industry. And if our schemes of usefulness and our plans of work fail, why sit down in discouragement? As large ant hills as have ever been constructed will be constructed again. Put your trust in God and do your duty, and your best days are yet to come. You will never hear such songs as you will yet hear, nor have you ever lived in such grand abode as you will yet occupy, and all the worldly treasures you have lost are nothing compared with the opulence that you will yet own. If you love and trust the Lord, Paul looks you in the face and then waves his hand toward a heaven full of palaces and thrones, saying, "All are yours!" So that what you fail to get in this present life you will get in the coming life. Go to work right away and rebuild as well as you can, knowing that what the trowels of earthly industry fail to rear the scepters of heavenly reward will more than make up. Persistence is the lesson of every ant hill. Waste not a moment in useless regrets or unhealthy repining.

Imparts Useful Lessons. Furthermore, go to the ant and consider that if God honors an insect by making it our instructor in important lessons we ought not to abuse the lower orders of creation. It has been found by scientists that insects transfixed in the case of a museum have been alive and in torture for years. How much the insect and the fowl and the brute may be rightly called to suffer for the advancement of human knowledge and the betterment of the condition of the human race I do not now stop to discuss, but he who uselessly harms any of God's living creation insults the Creator. Alas, for the horrors of vivisection! I have no confidence in the morality of a man or woman who would harm a horse or dog or a cat or a pigeon. Such men and women, under affront, if they dared would take the life of a human being. You cannot make me believe that God looks down indifferently upon the galled neck of the ox or the cruelly curbed bit of the horse or the unsheltered cattle in the snowstorm or the cockpit or the bear baiting or the pigeon shooting or the laceration of fish that are not used. Go to the ant, thou miscreant, and see how God honors it. In the great college of the universe it has been appointed your professor. All over the land and all over the world there are over-driven horses that ought to be unharnessed, caged birds that ought to be put on their wings in the free air of heaven, droves of cattle agonized of thirst on the freight trains where they ought to be watered and crustacea being broiled alive that ought to be lifted out of the fire. Christ chose twelve apostles for the human race in the first century, and you know their names, but in the nineteenth century he chose his thirteenth apostle, who

wrought for the relief of the brute creation, and his name was Henry Bergh. In my text the ant is not impaled, is not dead, but alive, and in the warm fields providing her meat in the summer and gathering her food in the harvest.

Furthermore, go to the ant and learn the lesson of God appointed order. The being who taught the insect how to build was geometer as well as architect. The paths inside that little home radiate from the door with as complete arrangement as ever the boulevards of a city radiated from a triumphal arch or a flowered circle. And when they march they keep perfect order, moving in straight lines, turning out for nothing. If a timber lie in the way, they climb over it. If there be a house or barn in the way, they march through it. Order in architectural structure, order in government, order of movement, order of expectation. So let us all observe this God appointed rule and take satisfaction in the fact that things are not at loose ends in this world. If there is a divine regulation in a colony or republic of insects, is there not a divine regulation in the lives of immortal men and women? If God cares for the least of his creatures and shows them how to provide their meat in the summer and gather their food in the harvest, will he not be interested in matters of human livelihood and in the guidance of human affairs? I preach the doctrine of a particular providence. "Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing, and yet not one of them is forgotten before God? Are ye not of more value than many sparrows?" Let there be order in our individual lives, order in the family, order in the church, order in the state.

God's Care of Small Things. After what Linnaeus and Pierre Huber have told us concerning these living mites of the natural world, are we not ready to believe that the God who turns the wheel of the solar system and the vaster wheel of the universe regulates the bee and the ant hill and that all the affairs of our mortal lives are under divine management? When some one asked a hermit on the top of a mountain in Italy if he did not feel it dangerous to live so many miles from human habitation, he replied: "No. Providence is my very next door neighbor."

He who became Sir Thomas Gresham and built the Royal Exchange in London when an infant was abandoned by his mother in the fields. Did it just happen so that the chirping of a grasshopper brought a boy to the spot where the babe lay and his life was saved? Not so, thought Sir Thomas Gresham, who, having arrived at great wealth and power, chose a grasshopper for his crest and had the figure of a grasshopper impressed on the wall of the Royal Exchange and had at the top a weather vane in the figure of a grasshopper. The Waldensian Christians in the seventeenth century were expelled from the valleys, and on their way 800 of them were starving to death. Did it just happen so that one night the deep snow suddenly thawed and showed a large amount of wheat which had been covered by the untimely snow and was suddenly uncovered so that the hunger was satisfied and the 800 lives saved? Did it just happen so? Near Port Royal, Jamaica, is a tomb with this inscription: "Here lieth the body of Louis Cald, Esq., a native of Montpellier, in France, which country he left on account of the revocations. He was swallowed up by the earthquake, which occurred at this place in 1692, but, by the great providence of God, was by a second shock swung into the sea, where he continued swimming till rescued by a boat and lived forty years afterward." Was the release of that man from the jaws of the earthquake a "just happen so?" When during the plague in London, at the risk of his life and under the protest of his friends, Rev. Thomas Vincent spent his time preaching the gospel to the sufferers and 68,596 people perished, seven fatalities in the house where he lived, did it just happen so that he came through unhurt?

An Under God's Care. We live in times when there are so many clashing. There seems almost universal unrest. Large fortunes swallow up small fortunes. Civilized nations trying to gobble up barbaric nations. Uphoal of creeds and people who once believed everything now believing nothing. The old book that Moses began and St. John ended bombarded from scientific observatories and college classrooms. Amid all this disturbance and uncertainty that which many good people need is not a stimulus, but a sedative, and in my text I find it—divine observation and guidance of minutest affairs. And nothing is to God large or small—planet or ant hill—the God who easily made the worlds employing his infinity in the wondrous construction of a spider's foot.

Before we leave this subject let us thank God for those who were willing to endure the fatigues and self-sacrifices necessary to make revelation of the natural world, so re-enforcing the Scriptures. If the microscope could speak, what a story it could tell of hardship and poverty and suffering and perseverance on the part of those who employed it for important discovery! It would tell of the blinded eyes of M. Strauss, of the Hubers and of scores of those who, after inspecting the minute objects of God's creation, staggered out from their cabinets with vision destroyed. This hour in many a professor's study the work of putting eyesight on the altar of science is going on. And what greater loss can one suffer than the loss of eyesight, unless it be loss of reason? While the telescope is reaching farther up and the microscope is reaching farther down, both are exclaiming: "There is a God, and he is infinitely wise and infinitely good! Worship him and worship him forever!"

THE ILLINOIS LEGISLATURE.

Work in Both Houses at Springfield.

REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS.

Joseph E. Bidwell Appointed to the Office of Chief Grain Inspector at Chicago.—Some Big Appropriation Bills Sent to the Senate.

Monday, April 25. The aggregate of the appropriations provided for in the omnibus bill is \$3,449,724.25, divided as follows: For the year 1901, \$1,201,748.67; for 1902, \$1,074,988.47; and for 1903, \$1,172,987.11. Chapman also introduced the omnibus bill for the state charitable institutions. These bills appropriate \$909,949.90 for improvements and \$1,645,600 for the expenses of these institutions. Senator Juell has introduced a bill to comply with the Supreme Court's decision on the lodging-house law, which has been knocked out as special legislation. The bills apply to boarding houses, taverns, inns and hotels all of the provisions of the lodging-house law.

Tuesday, April 26. The bill amending the military code so as to provide for the addition of two colored battalions in the National guard was passed in the House. The bill amending the school teachers' pension law by making it optional with teachers whether or not they will participate in the fund, and providing for the transfer of one-half of all street and elevated railroad license fees and fees secured for ordinance or contract rights held by such railroads, was advanced to third reading. Appropriation bills were passed providing for a number of state institutions. The Senate, in executive session, confirmed appointments recently sent in by Governor Yates.

Wednesday, April 27. Mr. Rinaker's bill giving salaries instead of fees to clerks in supreme and appellate courts of the house by a vote of 79 to 24. Litigants will pay a fee of \$15 a case to be turned into the state. Clerk's salaries will be: Clerk of the Supreme Court, \$3,000; first district clerk of the Appellate Court, first district, \$2,000; second district, \$1,800; third district, \$1,600; fourth district, \$1,500. Among other bills passed by the house was the one appropriating \$50,000 for an Illinois exhibit at the St. Louis Purchase Exposition. The Senate passed the house bill (Pendarvis) amending the juvenile court act. Senator Putnam being the only one to vote no.

Thursday, April 28. The house education committee bill providing for the consolidation of school districts and the free transportation of pupils to and from school was passed—yeas, 84. Senator Stubbs' bill to amend the school and teachers' pension fund act by providing that 1 per cent of the money collected from school licenses shall go to the fund passed. Senator Alden voted alone against the bill. Mr. Crafts' bill providing for an expression of opinion by electors on questions of public policy, as general or special election, known as the referendum bill, was passed.

Friday, April 29. The senate passed the McChist bill to amend the civil service law by including in the preferred list soldiers who served in the war with Spain and in the Philippines. Constitutional revision and amendments were on trial at night meeting in the house, which resolved itself into a committee of the whole for the purpose. The case will not be submitted to the jury for a vote until another day, when all members are here, and then all of them will probably vote against the senate. Charles W. Marsh, DeKalb county, trustee Northern Hospital for Insane, to succeed W. S. Cowen, Carroll county, term expired. William L. Fay, Morgan county, trustee institution for education of blind, to succeed Augustus Doss, Pike county, resigned. James A. Bullock, Kane county, trustee Northern Hospital for Insane, to succeed A. S. Wright, McHenry county, resigned. Samuel A. Bradley, Adams county, trustee Soldiers and Sailors' Home, to succeed W. O. Wright, Stephenson county, resigned. John R. Jody, Madison county, trustee Central Hospital for Insane, to succeed F. L. Sharpe, Morgan county, resigned. Herman Engelbach, Cass county, trustee institution for Education of Blind, to succeed Edward H. Hew, Cook county, resigned. John Gulp, Madison county, trustee Eastern Normal School, to succeed L. P. Wolf, resigned. James C. Lane, Kane county, trustee Northern Hospital for Insane, to succeed J. C. Murphy, Kane county, resigned. Walter Wood, Alexander county, trustee Southern Hospital for Insane, to succeed Louis Krughoff, Washington county, resigned. John A. Brown, Macon county, trustee institution for Education of Blind, to succeed Walter Wood, Alexander county, resigned. John J. McAllen, Kane county, trustee Northern Normal School, to succeed W. C. Garrard, Sangamon county, term expired.

On Senator Hall's bill to exempt from taxation the capital stock of mercantile companies Senator Shumway tacked an amendment exempting also the capital stock of corporations organized for "the manufacture and sale of electric current and gas, or either." This was done probably to kill the bill which the Illinois Manufacturers' Association wants, and will probably accomplish its purpose.

Belief in the certainty of reappointment bills getting through in the marked characteristic of republican members of the legislature Wednesday evening. The subject was considered in a joint meeting of the house senatorial appointment and steering committees.

The appointment of Mr. Thiemann completes the new live stock board. The live stock board has charge of the detection and prevention of contagious and infectious diseases among cattle. It condemns cattle affected with tuberculosis, lumpy jaw and other diseases, appraises their value and allows claims for damages. It is regarded a "good thing" in capable hands.

The 5 per cent tax rate bill is practically agreed to by everybody concerned, and awaiting the final vote. Chicago's small park bill went through the senate and moved up in the house. The house transportation consolidation bill was sent to third reading in the senate. The amended primary law passed the house; also the drainage board's bond bill.

SUCTION OF A FAST TRAIN.

Cautious People Will Avoid the Wagon of a Flying Express.

There is hardly any person, young or old, who does not like to see a fast railroad train go by. There is a fascination in the rush and roar, the engine represents so much resistive strength, and it is all such a triumph of man's skill that it never fails to evoke wonder and admiration. Yet there is danger in a moving train, and everyone should know enough to keep at a respectful distance while admiring this marvel. "The theory that a moving train carries along with it an envelope of air is very interesting," says an engineer. "I first had my attention attracted to the subject by a curious incident that happened several years ago at a crossing near Birmingham, Ala., where trains pass twice a day at a speed if about forty miles an hour. The tracks are seven feet apart and there would seem to be ample room to stand between them in safety between two trains. One day a terrier dog belonging to a section boss was asleep in the middle space, and woke up just as the trains closed in from each side. There was a barrel on the ground near by, and the dog in his fright jumped on top of it. That probably brought him into one of the rushing envelopes of air. At any rate, he was whirled off his feet and thrown clear to the roof of the opposite car, where he was subsequently found, jammed against a ventilator chimney, with no injury except a broken leg. How in the world he ever made such a journey and escaped alive is a mystery, unless his fall was cushioned by a cushion of air. Apropos of atmospheric pressure, it is a well-known fact that there is a 'vortex space,' or 'zone of suction,' directly behind any rapidly moving train, and its presence accounts for a grotesque happening that took place some time ago on the Southern Pacific. While the California bound express was going through western Arizona at a clipping gait a passenger who was on the verge of lunacy rushed out to the rear platform, climbed on a rail and jumped off. He was wearing a very long linen duster, and a spinning tourist who happened to be on the platform at the time grabbed it by the tails as it dived by and yelled for help. They reeled the man in like a kite, and he promised to be good."

Galena Grant Celebration. The celebration of the seventy-ninth anniversary of the birth of General U. S. Grant, which was held at Galena Saturday, Rev. F. W. Gunnasulus of Chicago delivered the annual address, taking the place of William J. Calhoun, who was compelled to cancel his engagement on account of serious illness. Dr. Gunnasulus is a favorite at Galena, having made the dedicatory address at the opening of the Galena Library several years ago. The exercises took place in Turner Hall at 2 o'clock Saturday afternoon. A parade comprising the Plattville Normal School band, members of the G. A. R., and civic societies, preceded the exercises at the hall.

Illinois Teachers' Meeting. Several hundred teachers attended the semi-annual gathering of the Northern Illinois Teachers' association, which held forth in Moline until Saturday noon. Prof. Charles T. Scribner of Chicago spoke on "William Morris and His Work" when a joint meeting was held with the Western Drawing Teachers' association, who were in session in Rock Island. The drawing teachers selected Minneapolis as the next place of meeting and elected officers as follows: President, Mrs. Jean McWhorter Mellor, Chicago; vice president, Miss Abbie Dean, Rock Island; secretary and treasurer, Miss Adella R. Denton, St. Joseph, Mo.

Woman Killed, but Horribly Scared Her 5-Year-Old Niece as She Jumped Over a Truck to Her Death—Woman in Men's Clothes.

Former Master Builder Dies. Charles Lay, a pioneer of Chicago, died in Chicago at the age of 83 years at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Charles E. Allen, 530 Park avenue. Mr. Lay came to Chicago in 1833 and was appointed master builder of the old Galena & Chicago Union railway, now part of the Chicago & Northwestern system. All the freight and passenger depots and other buildings between Dixon, Ill., and Clinton, Iowa, were erected by him. Mr. Lay was born in Niagara county, New York. In 1833 he married Miss Cynthia Hong of Lockport, N. Y. They had five daughters, all of whom are still living. They are Mrs. Mary Ann Cheney of Buffalo, N. Y.; Mrs. Thomas Burgess, Mrs. E. A. Shook and Mrs. Charles E. Allen of Chicago, and Miss Harriet Lay of Plainfield, Iowa.

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A WEEK IN ILLINOIS.

RECORD OF HAPPENINGS FOR SEVEN DAYS.

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Former Master Builder Dies. Charles Lay, a pioneer of Chicago, died in Chicago at the age of 83 years at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Charles E. Allen, 530 Park avenue. Mr. Lay came to Chicago in 1833 and was appointed master builder of the old Galena & Chicago Union railway, now part of the Chicago & Northwestern system. All the freight and passenger depots and other buildings between Dixon, Ill., and Clinton, Iowa, were erected by him. Mr. Lay was born in Niagara county, New York. In 1833 he married Miss Cynthia Hong of Lockport, N. Y. They had five daughters, all of whom are still living. They are Mrs. Mary Ann Cheney of Buffalo, N. Y.; Mrs. Thomas Burgess, Mrs. E. A. Shook and Mrs. Charles E. Allen of Chicago, and Miss Harriet Lay of Plainfield, Iowa.

Galena Grant Celebration. The celebration of the seventy-ninth anniversary of the birth of General U. S. Grant, which was held at Galena Saturday, Rev. F. W. Gunnasulus of Chicago delivered the annual address, taking the place of William J. Calhoun, who was compelled to cancel his engagement on account of serious illness. Dr. Gunnasulus is a favorite at Galena, having made the dedicatory address at the opening of the Galena Library several years ago. The exercises took place in Turner Hall at 2 o'clock Saturday afternoon. A parade comprising the Plattville Normal School band, members of the G. A. R., and civic societies, preceded the exercises at the hall.

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