

PALMAGE'S SERMON.

THE SEEN AND THE UNSEEN THE SUBJECT.

"Lo, These Are Parts of the Ways"—But How Little a Portion Is Heard of Him—Job xxvi, 14—Workings of Divine Power.

(Copyright, 1901, by Louis Klopfach, N. Y.) Washington, June 16.—In this discourse Dr. Talmage raises high expectations of the day when that which is now only dimly seen will be fully revealed; text, Job xxvi, 14: "Lo, these are parts of his ways. But how little a portion is heard of him? But the thunder of his power who can understand?"

The least understood being in the universe is God. Blasphemous would be any attempt by painting or sculpture to represent him. Egyptian hieroglyphs tried to suggest him by putting the figure of an eye upon a sword, implying that God sees and rules, but how imperfect the suggestion! When we speak of him, it is almost always in language figurative. He is "Light" or "Daypring From on High," or he is a "High Tower" or the "Fountain of Living Waters." His splendor is so great that no man can see him and live. When the group of great theologians assembled in Westminster abbey for the purpose of making a system of religious belief, they first of all wanted an answer to the question, "Who is God?" No one desired to undertake the answering of that overmastering question. They finally concluded to give the task to the youngest man in the assembly, who happened to be Rev. George Gillespie. He consented to undertake it on the condition that they would first unite with him in prayer for divine direction. He began his prayer by saying, "O God, thou art a spirit infinite, infinite, eternal and unchangeable in thy being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness and truth." That first sentence of Gillespie's prayer was unanimously adopted by the assembly as the best definition of God. But, after all, it was only a partial success, and after everything that language can do when put to the utmost strain and all we can see of God in the natural world and realize of God in the providential world we are forced to cry out with Job in his text: "Lo, these are parts of the ways. But how little a portion is heard of him? But the thunder of his power who can understand?"

God's Way of Doing. We try to satisfy ourselves with saying, "It is natural law that controls things, gravitation is at work, centrifugal and centrifugal forces respond to each other." But what is natural law? It is only God's way of doing things. At every point in the universe it is God's direct and continuous power that controls and harmonizes and sustains. That power withdrawn one instant would make the planetary system and all the worlds which astronomy reveals one universal wreck, bereft hemispheres, dismantled sunsets, dead constellations, debris of worlds. What power it must be that keeps the internal fires of our world imprisoned—only here and there spurring from a Cotopaxi, or a Stromboli, or from a Vesuvius, putting Pompeii and Herculaneum into sepulcher, but for the most part the internal fires chained in their cages of rock, and century after century unable to break the chain or burst open the door! What power to keep the component parts of the air in right proportion, so that all around the world the nations may breathe in health, the frosts and the heats hindered from working universal demolition! Power, as Isaiah says, "to take up the isles as a very little thing." Ceylon and Borneo and Hawaii as though they were pebbles; power to weigh the "mountains in scales" and the "hills in balances"—Tenerife and the Cordilleras. To move a rock we must have lever and screw and great machinery, but God moves the world with nothing but a word; power to create worlds and power to destroy them, as from observation again and again they have been seen red with flame, then pale with ashes and then scattered.

Workings of the Divine Power. We get some little idea of the divine power when we see how it buries the proudest cities and nations. Ancient Memphis it has ground up until many of its ruins are no larger than your thumb nail and you can hardly find a souvenir large enough to remind you of your visit. The city of Tyre is under the sea which washes the shore, on which are only a few crumbling pillars left. Sodom and Gormorrah are covered by waters so deathful that not a fish can live in them. Babylon and Ninevah are so blotted out of existence that not one uninjured shaft of their ancient splendor remains. Nothing but omnipotence could have put them down and put them under. The antediluvian world was able to send to the postdiluvian world only one ship with a very small passenger list. Omnipotence first rolled the seas over the land, and then told them to go back to their usual channels as rivers and lakes and oceans. At omnipotence command the waters nourishing upon their prey, and at omnipotent command sinking back into their appropriate places. By such rehearsal we try to arouse our appreciation of what omnipotence is, and our reverence is excited, and our adoration is intensified, but after all we find ourselves at the foot of a mountain we cannot climb, hovering over a depth we cannot fathom, at the rim of a circumference we cannot compass, and we feel like first going down on our knees and then like falling flat upon our faces as we exclaim: "Lo, these are parts of his ways. But how little a portion is heard of him? But the thunder of his power who can understand?"

The God of Abraham.

A tradition says that Abraham of the Old Testament was when an infant hidden in a cave because of the persecutions of Nimrod. The first time the child came out of the cavern it was night, and he looked up at the star and cried, "This is my God," but the star disappeared, and Abraham said, "No, that cannot be my God." After awhile the moon rose, and Abraham said, "That is my God," but it set, and Abraham was again disappointed. After the sun went down, and he said, "Why, truly, here is my God," but the sun went down, and Abraham was saddened. Not until the God of the Bible appeared to Abraham was he satisfied, and his faith was so great that he was called "the Father of the Faithful." All that the theologians know of God's wisdom is insignificant compared with the wisdom beyond human comprehension. The human race never has had and never will have enough brain or heart to measure the wisdom of God. I can think of only two authors who have expressed the exact facts. The one was Paul, who says, "Oh, the depth of the riches, both of the wisdom and knowledge of God, how unsearchable are his judgments and his ways past finding out." The other author was the scientist who composed my text. I think he wrote it during a thunderstorm, for the chapter says much about the clouds and describes the tremor of the earth under the reverberations. Witty writers sometimes depreciate the thunder and say it is the lightning that strikes, but I am sure God thinks well of the thunder, or he would not make so much of it, and all up and down the Bible he uses the thunder to give emphasis. It was the thunder that shook Sinai when the law was given. It was with thunder that the Lord discomfited the Philistines at Eben-ezer. Job pictures the warhorse as having a neck clothed with thunder. St. John, in an apocalyptic vision, again and again heard the thunder. The thunder, which is now quite well explained by the electricians, was the overpowering mystery of the ancients, and standing among those mysteries Job exclaimed: "Lo, these are parts of his ways. But how little a portion is heard of him? But the thunder of his power who can understand?"

The Omnipotence of God. We have all been painfully reminded in our own experiences that we cannot be in two places at the same time. Madler, the astronomer, went on with his explorations until he concluded that the star Alcyone, one of the Pleiades, was the center of the universe, and it was a fixed world, and all the other worlds revolved around that world, and some think that that world is heaven and God's throne is there, and there reside the nations of the blest. But he is no more there than he is here. Indeed, Alcyone has been found to be in motion, and it also is revolving around some great center. But no place has yet been found where God is not present by sustaining power. Omnipotence! Who fully appreciates it? Not I. Not you. Sometimes we hear him in a whisper. Sometimes we hear him in the voice of the storm that jars the Adriatic. But we cannot swim across this ocean. The finite cannot measure the infinite. We feel as Job did after finding God in the gold mines and the silver mines of Asia, saying, "There is a vein for the silver and a place for the gold where they fine it." And after exploring the heavens as an astronomer and finding God in distant worlds and becoming acquainted with Orion and Mizaroth and Arcturus and noticing the tides of the sea the inspired poet expresses his incapacity to understand such evidences of wisdom and power and says: "Lo, these are parts of his ways. But how little a portion is heard of him? But the thunder of his power who can understand?"

So every system of theology has attempted to describe and define the divine attribute of love. Easy enough is it to define fatherly love, motherly love, conjugal love, fraternal love, sisterly love and love of country, but the love of God defies all vocabulary. For many hundreds of years poets have tried to sing it and painters have tried to sketch it and ministers of the gospel to preach it and martyrs in the fire and Christians on their deathbeds have extolled it, and we can tell what it is like, but no one has yet fully told what it is. Men speak of the love of God as though it were first felt between the pointing of Bethlehem star and the pounding of the crucifixion hammer. But no! Long before that existed the love of God.

Seeing God Face to Face. Only glimpses of God have we in this world, but what an hour it will be when we first see him, and we will have no more fright than I feel when I now see you. It will not be with mortal eyes that we will behold him, but with the vision of a cleansed, forgiven and perfected spirit. Of all the quintillion ages of eternity to us the most thrilling hour will be the first hour when we meet him as he is. This may account for something you have all seen and may not have understood. Have you not noticed how that after death of the old Christian looks young again or the features resume the look of 20 or 30 years before? The weariness is gone out of the face; there is something strikingly restful and placid; there is a pleased look where before there was a disturbed look. What has wrought the change? I think the dying Christian saw God. At the moment the soul left the body what the soul saw left its impression on the countenance. I think that is what gave that old Christian face after death the radiant and triumphant look. The bestormed spirit has reached the harbor; the hard battle of life is ended in victory. The body took that look the moment heaven began, and the curtain was completely lifted and the glories of Jehovah's presence rushed upon the soul. The departing spirit left on the old man's face a glad good-

by, and that first look gave the pleased curve to the dying lip and smoothed out the wrinkles and touched all the lineaments with an indescribable radiance. As no one else explains that improved and gladdened post mortem look, I try to explain it, saying: "He saw God!" "She saw God!"

Keeping Flowers Fresh. Cut flowers, though universally employed, are seldom treated as they ought to be, so here are a few hints for those who like to keep their blossoms fresh as long as possible.

First of all, they should be put into some large receptacle and sprinkled freely with water all over. Only after this preliminary operation it is wise to transfer them to the several pots they are to occupy. They ought to be taken out every morning, sprinkled as on the first day, the tip of the stem then being cut off, and fresh water, flowing from a tap, should be allowed to run over the stalks, holding the flowers head downward, says the Philadelphia Press.

Finally, and herein lies the principal secret of success, the water in the vases may be "doctored" in this manner. Mix thoroughly together a tablespoonful of finely shredded yellow soap, enough chloride of sodium to cover a florin, and half a pint of water. Put in a portion of this mixture into every receptacle and fill in the usual way.

A pinch of borax in each one will preserve all the coloring of the most brilliant flowers, and by renewing the supply of the above solution every two or three days the flowers will last for a couple of weeks or more. Palms and all foliage plants must be carefully but moderately watered, washed, put outside daily for a bath of air and sunshine and must not be stood in draughts places.

Electricity at Long Range. The street cars in Oakland, Cal., are now operated with electricity from the Yuba river, 140 miles distant. The water power, having been converted into electricity, is carried on wires six-tenths of an inch in diameter, made of an alloy of copper and aluminum. The electrical pressure is 40,000 volts, and the loss in transmission is said to be 5 per cent. This is by far the longest electrical transmission system for power purposes in existence, and if the loss is as small as it is stated to be, it is the most promising indication of the possibilities of long-distance transmission yet furnished. "Something like six years ago," says the Railway Engineering Review, "a test of electric transmission over a line between Frankfurt and Laufen, in Germany, a distance of 110 miles, was made for experimental purposes, but not until the test of the plant above referred to has transmission for commercial purposes over a line of such great length been a fact."

Cutting Down the Army. The initial step has been taken by the War department toward the reduction of the force of regulars in the Philippines to 40,000. Orders were called General MacArthur to send to the United States the Fourteenth, Eighteenth and Twenty-third regiments of infantry, Fourth cavalry, Twenty-ninth, Thirtieth, Thirty-second and Thirty-third companies of coast artillery and the First, Eighth, Tenth, Twelfth and Thirteenth batteries of field artillery. The homeward movement of these troops can not be begun until after the volunteers have been returned. At present it is believed that 40,000 men will be enough for the Philippines. The manner in which the troops shall be distributed among the different arms of the service is as follows: Cavalry, 15,840 men; artillery, coast and field, 18,802, and 28,529 infantrymen. The total enlisted strength will be 74,504 men. The army, including officers, will aggregate about 80,000.

Five Talents. The last man to go for a helping hand for any new undertaking is the man who has plenty of time on his hands. It is the man and woman who are doing most who are always willing to do a little more.

The people who are tired of life are not those who work, but those who are too proud or too lazy to do so. Many of the rich are morbidly restless, while those who have to earn their daily bread are comparatively contented and happy. The Bible says that "the sleep of a laboring man is sweet, whether he eat little or much." (Ecc. v. 12); and the busy worker has health and blessing which the listless idler never knows.—Selected.

Topper's Children Are Went. "Not infrequently, the children of topers die of hereditary weakness, not only showing a pronounced tendency toward diseases of the brain, epilepsy and idiocy, but they are also frequently subject to vicious inclinations and criminal tendencies. They lack perception for that which is moral and which contributes to a steady, well-ordered career. Weighted with the burden of hereditary mental weakness, they not infrequently take to tramping, fall into crime, or become the victims of drunkenness or insanity. The tendency to drink degenerates not only the existing race, but also the coming generation."



Have Our Engines Failed? The Midland Railway Company of England has administered a cold douche to our pride of industrial conquest by announcing that the American locomotives tested by the road have cost from 20 to 25 per cent more than the British in fuel, 50 per cent more in oil, and 60 per cent more in repairs. Against these fatal defects are to be counted only the trifling offsets that the American locomotives were delivered in a few months instead of in three years and that their price was less than that of the British by \$2,000 apiece. It is explained that in American railroad practice engines are made to be worked to death and thrown on the scrap heap. English locomotives are expected to become heirlooms. But there is probably something more than that behind the Midland's figures. In all neutral markets the American machines give perfect satisfaction and are crowding the English out. That is the case even on the state railroads of British colonies. Before our manufacturers admit that their products are failures on English roads they would probably like to see them tested by American engineers and firemen.

The "Shamrock" Countess. The beautiful countess of Limerick has well earned the title of "The Shamrock Countess," for, thanks to her efforts, one of the British war funds has acquired this spring a substantial addition to its funds owing to the sale of the "dear little shamrock" so cleverly organized by the mistress of Dromore castle. The young countess—before her marriage Miss Burke-Irwin, the daughter of one of Ireland's most popular sportsmen, and herself, both as a girl and since her marriage, one of the straightest riders to hounds in the Emerald isle—early joined the group of those energetic peacemakers who do all in their power to improve the lot of their poorer friends and neighbors. The Shamrock League has succeeded beyond the wildest dreams of its promoters, and during the days which preceded March



COUNTRESS OF LIMERICK. If Lady Limerick and her friends worked hard all day tying up tiny nosegays of Ireland's national green blossom and dispatching it to all corners of the world.

The New Explosive. If the claims made by officials of the war department concerning the efficacy of a new explosive are borne out by subsequent tests, the United States may possess a secret which will have important bearing on the international politics of the future.

Warships and fortifications which have heretofore been regarded impregnable will be at the mercy of American guns. It has been demonstrated that the thickest Harvey armor will not withstand the new projectile when hurled by one of the great guns and, what is more important, that the explosive with which the projectile is loaded will be discharged immediately the armor is pierced.

Maximite, this new death-dealing explosive, is called after Mr. Hiram Maxim, its inventor. Mr. Maxim is the inventor of smokeless powder and has made a specialty of high explosives. It is announced by the officials in charge of the tests which have been made on the Sandy Hook proving grounds that the results far surpass anything heretofore attained in any country. Experts express the opinion that the building of battleships and fortifications may be revolutionized as the result of the discoveries made by Mr. Maxim.

President of New York Central. William H. Newman, who has just actively entered upon the duties of his new post as president of the New York Central and Hudson River railroad, is, as may easily be imagined, one of the cleverest and most thoroughly trained railroad men in America. He has worked his way up practically from the bottom. It is more than thirty years ago since he began his career in his profession as local



WILLIAM H. NEWMAN, ticket agent on the Texas and Pacific. In three years he had been promoted to the post of general freight agent, and he was next made third vice-president. The Chicago and Northwestern offered him a similar post, which he at once accepted, and in 1896 the Great Northern road elected him its second vice-president. Three years ago he was elected president of the Lake Shore, in which position he was serving when called to the presidency of the New York Central. His knowledge takes in all departments of a railway.

Disadvantages of Co-Education. For the great majority of girls over fifteen years of age a girl's school or college is much to be preferred, in the opinion of one person, at least. I can speak only what I think in this connection. I know that many of the wisest and best men and women will not assent to my reasoning or my conclusions.

It should not be forgotten that the emotional life is growing in and dominating the life of all young creatures. Girls can think and study better away from the society of youths of their own age than they can in company with them. To get the best results from study the mind must be kept as free as possible from distractions of an emotional nature. The associations of school life should be calm, healthful, cheerful and free from all that is exciting or premature of development. The "flirtations" of school and college life are confessed by every one to be out of place and out of time, yet when young men and young women are together nothing can prevent such episodes. This one fact alone tells against "co-education," and so strongly that nothing can entirely offset it.—Ada C. Sweet.

All Over a Poster. Is it possible to be driven insane by a poster? This is a question which is being much debated at present in Des Moines, Ia. Miss Bertha Atkinson of that city believes that she will go mad if a poster opposite her window is not removed. So real, so vital, so appalling has become her horror of the painted placard that her friends have come to share in the apprehension. Accordingly a protest has been made to the municipal authorities, and



THE OBJECTIONABLE POSTER. The poster may be removed. Meanwhile Des Moines is agitated by intense feeling. The contagion spreads daily. No epidemic of disease, the authorities say, ever spread so rapidly.

A WEEK IN ILLINOIS.

RECORD OF HAPPENINGS FOR SEVEN DAYS.

Catholic Order of Foresters. The fifty-sixth annual commencement of Knox College was held in the Central church, Galesburg. The last year the college has had an enrollment of nearly 700 and commencement week has seen the usual number of visitors. After the exercises the following prizes were awarded: Lawrence prize in freshman Latin—First, M. Willard Lamp; second, Alice C. Goodell, Galesburg. Lawrence prize in freshman Greek—First, M. Willard Lamp; second, Miss Della Hunt, Galesburg. Lawrence preparatory Latin—Kollong D. McClelland, Galesburg. Park scholarship in sciences—Virgil E. Lohr, Mendon. Degree of A. M.—Walter F. Coolidge, Galesburg; Phillip J. Stoneberg, Bishop Hill.

Degree of M. S.—Charles G. Furness, Chicago. LL. D.—John P. Wilson, Chicago. D. D.—Edwin S. Carr, Wheaton; Steward Campbell, Chicago; T. G. Soares, Galesburg. LL. D.—E. K. Painter, Galva. The Alumni association took steps toward securing an endowment for three professorships.

Old Officers Are Chosen. The old officers of the Catholic Order of Foresters were re-elected at the state convention in Kankakee. The next convention will be held at Peoria. Several Foresters broke into the printing office to get a copy of the official ballot for international delegates, but failed. They will be expelled from the order if they can be identified. Peoria was chosen for the next convention after a fight made by Rochelle and Rockford. A resolution changing the assessment rate was referred to a special committee, to report at the national convention to be held in Detroit in August. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: State chief ranger, Thomas McNeerney, Chicago; vice state chief ranger, Peter Reinhardt, Streator; state secretary, Nicholas V. Fischer, Chicago; state treasurer, James Burke, Chicago. The salary of the secretary was increased to \$800 per annum.

La Grange Woman a Suicide. Ever since last February Mrs. Emma Keeler of La Grange has been wanting to die. At last she has attained her desire by taking her own life by hanging. Why she did not do it sooner only she knows. The note which she left with her lifeless body was dated last February, and stated that she was tired of life. It also disposed of the belongings which she left behind. Thursday morning she was alive and well. She went to the city and returned at noon. In the evening her husband came home only to find her dead.

Wagon Verdict at Watseka. Coroner C. A. Barsum and a jury at Watseka reopened the inquiry into the fire of May 25, which burned to death the wife of Burton A. Magee, his son Calvin, and Mrs. Mary J. Hirschberger. No additional testimony was given and the former verdict of "accidental death" was reiterated. Magee was present, but on the advice of his attorney refused to make any statement on the ground that at the former hearing of the case he had told all the facts he knew.

Illinois Wesleyan University. The closing feature of commencement week of the Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington, was the graduation of the literary and scientific department. This took place in Amie chapel. The class orator, the Rev. Dr. James Oliver Wilson, 74, of New York, was introduced by President Smith, New York, and an alumnus of the Wesleyan class of '74. The degree of doctor of divinity was conferred on Rev. Christopher Galester of Danville, Ill.

Leave Fort Without Leave. Forty-two soldiers at Fort Sheridan are absent without leave. This is the result, in a nutshell, of payday at the fort. There were three arrests and one private, John Griggs, was registered as a deserter. Private Harry M. Falk is supposed to have disappeared with \$42 of his comrades' money. The cash was given him to "promote" a game. Private James Young spent a night in the Highwood jail on the charge of attempting to purloin cigars.

Rev. Dr. Fawcett's Funeral. Dr. William Fawcett's funeral was held in River Forest. Private services were held at the late residence, conducted by the Rev. M. Edward Fawcett of St. Bartholomew's Episcopal church, Englewood, a son of the deceased. The public services were held in Grace Methodist Episcopal church, Chicago, of which Dr. Fawcett was pastor from 1881 to 1884. Bishop S. M. Merrill officiated, assisted by Bishop McCabe.

Centennial's First Century Class. Commencement week came to a close at Carbondale with the graduating of the first century class and the university address by the Rev. Dr. Robert McIntyre of Chicago, who had for his subject, "Dethroned-Up People."