

# PERILS THAT THREATEN

Rev. Dr. Talmage Discusses the Destiny of the American Republic.

Monopoly the Overshadowing Curse of the United States--Nihilism Also an Evil Power--Infidelity a Great Source of Weakness.

Washington, May 28.—In this discourse Dr. Talmage speaks of some of the perils that threaten our American institutions, and points out the path of safety; text, Isaiah lxi, 4, "Thy land shall be married."

As the greater includes the less, so does the circle of future joy around our entire world include the epicycle of our own republic. Bold, exhilarant, unique, divine imagery of the text. At the close of a week in which for three days our national capital was a pageant and all that grand review and bannered procession and national anthems could do, celebrated peace, it may not be inapt to anticipate the time when the Prince of Peace and the heir of universal dominion shall take possession of this nation, and "thy land shall be married."

In discussing the final destiny of this nation it makes all the difference in the world whether we are on the way to a funeral or a wedding. The Bible leaves no doubt on this subject. In pulpits and on platforms and in places of public discourse, I hear so many of the muffled drums of evil prophecy sounded, as though we were on the way to national interment, and beside Thebes and Babylon and Tyre in the cemetery of dead nations our republic was to be entombed, that I wish you to understand it is not to be obsequies, but nuptials; not mausoleum, but carpeted altar; not cypress, but orange blossoms; not requiem, but wedding march; for "thy land shall be married."

I propose to name some of the suitors who are claiming the hand of this republic. This land is so fair, so beautiful, so affluent that it has many suitors, and it will depend much upon your advice whether this or that shall be accepted or rejected. In the first place, I remark: There is a greedy, all grasping monster who comes in as suitor seeking the hand of this republic, and that monster is known by the name of monopoly. His scepter is made out of the iron of the rail track and the wire of telegraphy. He does everything for his own advantage and for the robbery of the people. Things went on from bad to worse until in the three legislatures of New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania for a long time monopoly decided everything. If monopoly favor a law, it passes; if monopoly oppose a law, it is rejected. Monopoly stands in the railroad depot putting into his pockets in one year \$200,000,000 in excess of all reasonable charges for services. Monopoly holds in his one hand the steam power of locomotion and in the other the electricity of swift communication. Monopoly has the Republican party in one pocket and the Democratic party in the other pocket. Monopoly decides nominations and elections—city elections, state elections, national elections. With bribes he secures the votes of legislators, giving them free passes, giving appointments to needy relatives to lucrative positions, employing them as attorneys if they are lawyers, carrying their goods 15 per cent less if they are merchants, and if he find a case very stubborn as well as very important puts down before him the hard cash of bribery.

## Power of Monopoly.

But monopoly is not so easily caught now as when during the term of Mr. Buchanan the legislative committee in one of our states explored and exposed the manner in which a certain railway company had obtained a donation of public land. It was found out that 13 of the Senators of that state received \$175,000 among them, 60 members of the Lower House of that state received between \$5,000 and \$10,000 each, the Governor of that state received \$50,000, his clerk received \$5,000, the Lieutenant-Governor received \$10,000, all the clerks of the Legislature received \$5,000 each, while \$50,000 was divided among the lobby agents. That thing on a larger or smaller scale is all the time going on in some of the states of the Union, but it is not so blundering as it used to be, and therefore not so easily exposed or arrested. I tell you that the overshadowing curse of the United States to-day is monopoly. He puts his hand upon every bushel of wheat, upon every sack of salt, upon every ton of coal, and every man, woman and child in the United States feels the touch of that moneyed despotism. I rejoice that in 24 states of the Union already anti-monopoly leagues have been established. God speed them in the work of liberation.

I have nothing to say against capitalists; a man has a right to all the money he can make honestly. I have nothing to say against corporations as such; without them no great enterprise would be possible, but what I do say is that the same principles are to be applied to capitalists and to corporations that are applied to the poorest man and the plainest laborer. What is wrong for me is wrong for great corporations. If I take from you your property without any adequate compensation, I am a thief, and, if a railway damages the property of the people without making any adequate compensation, that is a gigantic theft. What is wrong on a small scale is wrong on a large scale. Monopoly in England has ground hundreds of thousands of her best people into semi-starvation, and in Ireland has driven multitudinous tenants almost to madness, and in the United States proposes to take the wealth of 60 or 70

millions of people and put it in a few silken wallets.

Monopoly, brazen-faced, iron-fingered, vulture-hearted monopoly, offers his hand to this republic. He stretches it out over the lakes and up the great railroads and over the telegraph poles of the continent and says: "Here are my heart and hand. Be mine forever." Let the millions of the people, north, south, east and west forbid the banners that marriage, forbid them at the ballot box, forbid them on the platform, forbid them by the organizations, forbid them by the overwhelming sentiment of an outraged nation, forbid them by the protest of the church of God, forbid them by prayer to high heaven. That Herod shall not have this Abigail. It shall not be to all-devouring monopoly that this land is to be married.

## Nihilism a Monster.

Another suitor claiming the hand of this republic is nihilism. He owns nothing but a knife for universal outthrustery and a nitroglycerin bomb for universal explosion. He believes in no God, no government, no heaven and no hell except what he can make on earth. He slew the Czar of Russia, keeps many a king practically imprisoned, killed Abraham Lincoln, would put to death every king and president on earth, and, if he had the power, would climb up until he could drive the God of heaven from his throne and take it himself, the universal butcher. In France it is called communism; in the United States it is called anarchism; in Russia it is called nihilism, but that last is the most graphic and descriptive term. It means complete and eternal smashup. It would make the holding of property a crime, and it would drive a dagger through your heart and put a torch to your dwelling and turn over this whole land into the possession of theft and lust and rapine and murder.

Where does this monster live? In all the towns and cities of this land. It offers its hand to this fair republic. It proposes to tear to pieces the ballot box, the legislative hall, the congressional assembly. It would take this land and divide it up, or rather, divide it down. It would give as much to the idler as to the worker, to the bad as to the good. Nihilism! This panther having prowled across other lands has set its paw on our soil, and it is only waiting for the time in which to spring upon its prey. It was nihilism that burned the railroad property at Pittsburg during the great riots; it was nihilism that slew black people in our northern cities during the war; it was nihilism that mauled to death the Chinese immigrants years ago; it is nihilism that glares out of the windows of the drunkeries upon sober people as they go by. Ah, its power has never yet been tested. I pray God its power may never be fully tested. It would, if it had the power, leave every church, chapel, cathedral, schoolhouse and college in ashes.

Let me say it is the worst enemy of the laboring classes in any country. The honest cry for reform lifted by oppressed laboring men is drowned out by the vociferation for anarchy. The criminals and the vagabonds who range through our cities talking about their rights, when their first right is the penitentiary—if they could be hushed up, and the down-trodden laboring men of this country could be heard, there would be more bread for hungry children. In this land, riot and bloodshed never gained any wages for the people or gathered up any prosperity. In this land the best weapon is not the club, not the shillelah, not firearms, but the ballot. Let not our oppressed laboring men be beguiled to coming under the bloody banner of nihilism. It will make your taxes heavier, your wages smaller, your table scantier, your children hungrier, your suffering greater. Yet this nihilism, with feet red of slaughter, comes forth and offers its hand for this republic. Shall the banners be proclaimed? If so, where shall the marriage altar be? and who will be the officiating priest? and what will be the music? That altar will have to be white with bleached skulls, the officiating priest must be a dripping assassin, the music must be the smothered groan of multitudinous victims, the garlands must be twisted of night shade, the fruits must be apples of Sodom, the wine must be the blood of St. Bartholomew's massacre. No! It is not to be to nihilism, the sanguinary monster, that this land is to be married.

## Infidelity's Threat.

Another suitor for the hand of this nation is infidelity. When the midnight ruffians despoiled the grave of A. T. Stewart in St. Mark's churchyard everybody was shocked; but infidelity proposes something worse than that—the robbing of all the graves of Christendom of the hope of a resurrection. It proposes to chisel out from the tombstones of your Christian dead the words "Asleep in Jesus," and substitute the words, "Obliteration—annihilation." Infidelity proposes to take the letter from the world's Father, inviting the nations to virtue and happiness, and tear it up into fragments so small that you cannot read a word of it. It proposes to take the consolation from the brokenhearted and the soothing pillow from the dying. Infidelity proposes to swear in the President of the United States, and the supreme court, and the governors of states, and the witnesses in the courtroom with their right hand on Paine's "Age of Reason," or Voltaire's "Philosophy of History." It proposes to take away from this country

the book that makes the difference between the United States and the kingdom of Dahomey, between American civilization and Bornean cannibalism. If infidelity could destroy the Scriptures, it would in 200 years turn the civilized nations back to semi-barbarism, and then from semi-barbarism into midnight savagery, until the morals of a menagerie of tigers, rattlesnakes and chimpanzees would be better than the morals of the shipwrecked human race.

The only impulse in the right direction that this world has ever had has come from the Bible. It was the mother of Roman law and of healthful jurisprudence. That book has been the mother of all reforms and all charities—mother of English magna charta and American declaration of independence. Benjamin Franklin, holding that holy book in his hand, stood before an infidel club in Paris and read to them out of the prophecies of Habakkuk, and the infidels, not knowing what book it was, declared it was the best poetry they had ever heard. That book brought George Washington down on his knees in the snow at Valley Forge, and led the dying Prince Albert to ask some one to sing "Rock of Ages."

I tell you that the worst attempted crime of the century is the attempt to destroy this book. Yet infidelity, loathsome, stenched, leprous, pestiferous, rotten monster, stretches out its hand, ichorous with the second death, to take the hand of this republic. It stretches it out through seductive magazines, and through lyceum lectures, and through caricatures of religion. It asks for all that part of the continent already fully settled and the two-thirds not yet counted. It says: "Give me all east of the Mississippi, with the keys of the church and with the Christian printing presses. Then give me Wyoming, give me Alaska, give me Montana, give me Colorado, give me all the states west of the Mississippi and I will take those places and keep them by right of possession long before the gospel can be fully entrenched."

And this suitor presses his case appealingly. Shall the banners of that marriage be proclaimed? "No!" say the home missionaries of the west, a martyr band of whom the world is not worthy, toiling amid fatigues and malaria and starvation. "No, not if we can help it. By what we and our children have suffered we forbid the banners of that marriage!" "No!" say all patriotic voices. "Our institutions were bought at too dear a price and were defended at too great a sacrifice to be so cheaply surrendered." "No!" says the God of Bunker Hill and Independence Hall and Gettysburg. "I did not start this nation for such a farce." "No!" cry 10,000 voices. "To infidelity this land shall not be married!"

Pledged to Christ. But there is another suitor that presents his claim for the hand of this republic. He is mentioned in the verse following my text where it says, "As the bridegroom rejoiceth over the bride, so shall thy God rejoice over thee." It is not my figure. It is the figure of the Bible. Christ is so desirous to have this world love him that he stoops at no humiliation of simile. He compares his grace to spittle on the eyes of the blind man. He compares himself to a hen gathering the chickens, and in my text he compares himself to a suitor begging a hand in marriage. Does this Christ, the King, deserve this land? Behold Pilate's hall and the insulting expectation on the face of Christ. Behold the Calvarian massacre and the awful hemorrhage of five wounds. Jacob served 14 years for Rachel, but Christ, my Lord, the King, suffered in torture 33 years to win the love of this world. As often princesses at their very birth are pledged in treaty of marriage to princes or kings of earth, so this nation at its birth was pledged to Christ for Divine marriage. Before Columbus and his 120 men embarked on the Santa Maria, the Pinta and the Nina for their wonderful voyage, what was the last thing they did? They sat down and took the holy sacrament of the Lord Jesus Christ. After they caught the first glimpse of this country and the gun of one ship had announced it to the other vessels that land had been discovered, what was the song that went up from all the three decks? "Gloria in excelsis." After Columbus and his 120 men had stepped from the ship's deck to the solid ground, what did they do? They all knelt and consecrated the new world to God. What did the Huguenots do after they landed in the Carolinas? What did the Holland refugees do after they had landed in New York? What did the Pilgrim Fathers do after they landed in New England? With bended knee and uplifted face and heaven-besieging prayer, they took possession of this continent for God. How was the first American congress opened? By prayer. In the name of Jesus Christ. From its birth this nation was pledged for holy marriage with Christ.

## A Blessed Country.

And then see how good God has been to us! Just open the map of the continent and see how it is shaped for immeasurable prosperities. Navigable rivers, more in number and greater than of any other land, rolling down on all sides into the sea, propelling large manufactures and easy commerce. Look at the great ranges of mountains timbered with wealth on the tops and sides, metalled with wealth underneath. One hundred and eighty thousand square miles of iron. The land so contoured that extreme weather hardly ever lasts more than three days—extreme heat or extreme cold. Climate for the most part bracing and favorable for brawn and brain. All fruits, all minerals, all harvests. Scenery displaying an autumnal paganery that no land on earth pretends to rival. No South American earthquakes. No Scotch mists. No London fogs. No Egyptian plagues. No Germanic divisions. The people of the United States are happier than any people on earth. It is the testimony of every man that has travelled abroad. For the poor, more sympathy; for the industries, more opportunity. Oh, how good God was to our fathers, and how good he has been to us and our children. To him—blessed be his mighty name—to him of cross and triumph, to him who still remembers the prayer of the Huguenots and Holland refugees and the Pilgrim

Fathers—to him shall this land be married. Oh, you Christian patriots, by your contributions and your prayers hasten on the fulfillment of the text.

We have been turning an important leaf in the mighty tome of our national history. One year at the gates of this continent over 500,000 emigrants arrived. I was told by the commissioner of emigration that the probability was that in that one year 600,000 emigrants would arrive at the different gates of commerce.

## Room For All.

Are you afraid this continent is going to be overcrowded with its population? Ah, that shows you have not been to California, that shows you have not been to Oregon, that shows you have not been to Texas. A fishing smack to-day on Lake Ontario might as well be afraid of being crowded by other shipping before night as for any one of the next ten generations of Americans to be afraid of being overcrowded by foreign populations in this country. The one state of Texas is far larger than all the Austrian empire, yet the Austrian empire supports 35,000,000 people. The one state of Texas is larger than all France, and France supports 36,000,000 people. The one state of Texas far surpasses in size the German empire, yet the Germanic empire supports 41,000,000 people. I tell you the great want of the western states is more population.

While some people may stand at the gates of the city saying, "Stay back!" to foreign populations, I press out as far beyond those gates as I can press out beyond them and beckon to foreign nations, saying, "Come, come, all ye people who are honest and industrious and God loving!" But say you, "I am so afraid that they will bring their prejudices for foreign governments and plant them here." Absurd. They are sick of the governments that have oppressed them, and they want free America! Give them the great gospel of welcome. Throw around them all Christian hospitalities. They will add their industry and hard earned wages to this country, and then we will dedicate all to Christ and "thy land shall be married." But where shall the marriage altar be? Let it be the Rocky Mountains, when, through artificial and mighty irrigation, all their tops shall be covered, as they will be, with vineyards and orchards and grain fields. Then let the Bosons and the New Yorks and the Charlesons of the Pacific coast come to the marriage altar on one side, and then let the Bostons and the New Yorks and the Charlesons of the Atlantic coast come to the marriage altar on the other side, and there between them let this bride of nations kneel, and then if the organ of the loudest thunders that ever shook the Sierra Nevadas on the one side or moved the foundations of the Alleghanies on the other side should open full diapason of wedding march, that organ of thunders could not drown the voice of him who would take the hand of this bride of nations, saying, "as a bridegroom rejoiceth over a bride, so thy God rejoiceth over thee." At that marriage banquet the platters shall be of Nevada silver, and the chalices of California gold and the fruits of northern orchards and the spoils of southern groves and the tapestry of American manufacture and the congratulations from the free nations of earth and from all the triumphant armies of heaven. And so "thy land shall be married."

## CONSISTENCY THE JEWEL.

But Don't Undertake to Talk It to a Woman.

"No," she said, "I am a vegetarian not strictly because I believe eating meat is harmful to a person; there is another forcible reason why we should not partake of flesh—we have no right to kill animals for food or for any other purpose. I don't wear feathers on my hat, you see."

"I am inclined to agree with you, Miss Fenlow," he replied. "I think we eat too much meat, or most of us do, and as for killing birds in order to obtain ornaments for hats that is reprehensible."

"Ah," she exclaimed, "I'm so glad you take that view of the case! It is gratifying to find a man who has thrown off the savage instinct and is willing to admit that the beasts of the field and the birds of the air have rights. Why, I would no more think of partaking of a piece of beef or lamb than I would think of hurling myself from a house top."

"I see, however," he said, after a short pause, "that you still wear shoes and gloves that were made from the skins of animals which were killed for the purpose of"—

But the dark look upon her face caused him to cut short his remarks, and they never discuss the meat subject any more.

## Rudyard Kipling's Error.

I wrote to Kipling soon after, telling him that a man who could write as he could should go home to England, to London, where fame could be won; but he replied, in a characteristic letter which may be published some day:

"You ought to know better at your time of life than to knock a youngster off his legs in this way. How do you expect anyone will be able to hold me after your letter?"

"Would you be astonished if I told you that I look forward to nothing but an Indian journalist's career? Why should I? My home's here; my people are out here; all the friends I know are out here; and all the interests I have are out here. Why should I go home? Any fool can put up rhymes, and the market is full of boys who could undersell me as soon as I put my foot in it."—E. Kay Robinson, in Literature.

## When Genius Gets a Show.

"Why is it the mind is brighter when a man is past 40?"  
"After that age the man gets sense enough not to eat too much."

## WOMAN'S WORK UNAPPRECIATED.

She is Made to Feel that Only Men Do Work That Counts in the World's Affairs.

"It is unreasonable to expect that a man, with his purely masculine conception of things, can ever fully appreciate woman's work in the home, any more than a woman can be expected to understand fully a man's work in the outer world," writes Edward Bok, of "What Women Find to Do All Day," in The Ladies' Home Journal. "But so far women have acquired a truer conception of men's work than men have of women's work. I firmly believe that if men were more appreciative of women's work in the home, and regarded housewifery as a profession and a responsible one, deserving of the highest respect, and requiring quite as much brain and education as any masculine profession, there would be fewer women looking for broader fields of work and more responsible duties. Men have made women feel too keenly that it is what the man does; that it is his profession which moves the world, and that the work which a woman does in her home is, while necessary, yet hardly to be compared with a man's achievements. It is this holding up the greater importance of the work of the outside world which has driven many an ambitious woman into that world to become a part of it, and thus acquire a position of more apparent importance. Not given recognition in their natural work, women have gone out and tried work that is unnatural to them."

## Biggest Wedding Ever Known.

On the day that Alexander the Great was married no fewer than 20,202 persons in one ceremony were made husbands and wives. This seems impossible, but the event really took place, as historic records tell us. This monster wedding occurred upon the conquest by Alexander the Great of Persia, which was then ruled over by King Darius.

Alexander married Statira, the daughter of the conquered king, and declared that 100 of his chief officers should be united to 100 ladies from the noblest Persian and Median families. In addition to this, he stipulated that 10,000 of his Greek soldiers should marry 10,000 Asiatic women.

When everything was settled a vast pavilion was erected, the pillars of which were 60 feet high. One hundred gorgeous chambers adjoined this for the 100 noble bridegrooms, while for the remaining 10,000 an inner court was enclosed, outside of which tables were spread for the multitude. Each pair had seats and ranged themselves in a semi-circle round the royal throne. Of course the priests could not marry this vast number of couples, so Alexander the Great devised a very simple ceremony. He gave his hand to Statira and kissed her, an example that all the bridegrooms followed.

Thus ended the ceremony, and that vast number were married. Then followed the festival, which lasted five days, the grandeur of which has never been equaled since.

## A Mystery Explained.

On a certain hot summer day a celebrated naturalist entertained a company of distinguished savants at dinner, at the conclusion of which they all went out in the garden.

In the center of the grounds there stood on a pedestal a large glass globe. One of the guests happened to touch this globe, and found, to his amazement, that it was warmer on the shady side than on the side turned to the sun. He communicated his discovery to the guests, who at once proceeded to verify the statement.

What could be the cause? An animated discussion ensued, in the course of which every imaginable law of physics was made to account for this strange paradox. At length they agreed that it must be so owing to the laws of reflection, repulsion or exhalation or some other law of physics with a long name.

The host was, however, not quite convinced, and, calling the gardener, he said to him:

"Pray tell us why the globe is warmer on the shady side than on the side turned to the sun?"

The man replied:  
"Because just now I turned it round for fear of its cracking with the heat."

## The President's Message.

The message which President Clark sent in 1884 to his Christian Endeavor hosts is repeated by him this year, and he could not have chosen better words of counsel than those he uttered 15 years ago, when he said in part:

"The last dozen years have been years of peculiar temptation to young people. The standards of many churches in regard to worldly amusements have been lowered. Many practices which a dozen years ago would have been utterly condemned, are to-day admitted in some Christian circles. The strain put upon many young Christians by this conformity to the world all around them has been almost unbearable, and some, alas, have yielded to it. Look this matter of worldliness squarely in the face. Decide what you ought to do as a young Christian. Do not be laughed or browbeaten out of your convictions. Lift up your banner and stand to your colors."  
We gladly give these words wider currency, both because of their worth and because they are applicable to a larger constituency than that even which is comprised in the mighty army of Christian Endeavor.

## The Savoir Faire.

Housewife—How dare you ask me to feed you again?  
Hobo—That, ma'am, is a perfeshunal secret.—Detroit Journal.

## Before and After.

He—Was your brother engaged in the late war?  
She—No, not until after he came home.—Yonkers Statesman.