



ENEMIES OF CHRIST

Prevalent Sins of the Present Time.

NOTED FOR BLASPHEMY

IS Dr. Talmage's Observation About the United States - A Battle Cry Wanted for the Great Contest Against the Armies of Iniquity.

Washington, Sept. 18.—This morning Rev. Dr. Talmage, presiding from the text Psalms lxxiii. 1. "Let God arise, let his enemies be scattered." He said:

A procession was formed to carry the ark, or sacred box, which though only 3 feet 9 inches in length, and 4 feet 3 inches in height and depth, was the symbol of God's presence. As the leaders of the procession lifted this ornamented and brilliant box by two golden poles run through four gold-rings and started for Mount Zion all the people chanted the battle hymn of my text, "Let God arise, let his enemies be scattered."

The Cameronians of Scotland, outraged by James I., who forced upon them religious forms that were offensive, and by that terrible persecution of Drummond, Dalziel and Turner, and by the oppressive laws of Charles I. and Charles II., were driven to proclaim war against tyrants and went forth to fight for their religious liberty, and the mountain heather became red with carnage, and at Bothwell Bridge and Aird's Moss and Drumclog the battle hymn and the battle shout of those glorious and scotchmen was the text I have chosen, "Let God arise, let his enemies be scattered."

The Methodists have gone in triumph across nation after nation with the cry, "The sword of the Lord and of Wesley." The Presbyterians have gone from

victory to victory with the cry, "The sword of the Lord and of John Knox." The Baptists have conquered millions after millions for Christ with the cry, "The sword of the Lord and of Judson." The American Episcopalians have won the r mighty way, with the cry, "The sword of the Lord and Bishop Milner." The victory is to those who put God first. But, as we wait a b theory suited to all sects of theologians and to all lands, I nominate as battler of christendom in the approaching Armageddon the words of my text, "Let God arise, let his enemies be scattered."

As far as our finite mortal judge, it seems about time for God to rise. Does it not seem to you that the abominations of this earth have gone far enough? Was there ever a time when sin was so defiant? Were there ever before so many fists lifted toward God, telling him to come if he dare? Look at the blasphemy afloat! What towering profanity! Would it be possible for any one to calculate the numbers of times that the name of the Almighty God and of Jesus Christ are every day taken irreverently on the lips? Profane swearing is as much forbidden by the law as theft or arson or murder, yet who executes it? Profanity is worse than theft or arson or murder, for these crimes are attacks on humanity; that is an attack on God.

Years ago in a Pittsburg prison two men were talking about the Bible and Christianity, and one of them, Thompson by name, applied to Jesus Christ a very low and villainous epithet, and as he was uttering it he fell. A physician was called, but no help could be given. After a day lying with distended pupils and palsied tongue he passed out of this world. In a cemetery on Sullivan County, in New York State, are eight headstones in a line and all alike and these are the facts: In 1861 diphtheria raged in the village, and a physician was remarkably successful in curing his patients. So confident did he become that he boasted that no case of diphtheria could stand before him and finally defied Almighty God to produce a case of diphtheria that he could not cure. His youngest child soon after took the disease and died and one child after another until all the eight had died of diphtheria. The blasphemer challenged Almighty God, and God accepted the challenge. Do not think that because God has been silent in your case, O profane swearer, that he is dead. Is there nothing now in the peculiar feeling of your tongue or no ting in the numbness of your brain that indicates that God may come to avenge your blasphemies or is already avenging them? But these cases I have noticed I believe, are only

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