

DR. TALMAGE'S SERMON.

The trials through which the truth has struggled are by Dr. Talmage here set forth under a Bible symbol of great suggestiveness and power; text, Solomon's Song 111.6. "Who is this that cometh out of the wilderness like pillars of smoke?"

The architecture of the smoke is wondrous. Whether God with his finger curves it into a cloud, or rounds it into a dome, or points it in a spire, or spreads it in a wing, or, as in the text, hoists it in a pillar. Watch it winding up from the country farmhouse in the early morning, showing that the pastoral industries have begun, or see it ascending from the chimneys of the city, telling of the homes fed, the factories turning out valuable fabrics, the printing presses preparing book and newspaper, and all the 10,000 wheels of work in motion. On a clear day this vapor spoken of mounts with such buoyancy and spreads such a delicate veil across the sky and traces such graceful lines of circle and semicircle and waves and losses and sinks and soars and scatters with such effluence of shape and color and suggestiveness that if you have never noticed it you are like a man who has all his life lived in Paris and yet never seen the Luxembourg, or all his life in Rome and never seen the Vatican, or all his life at Lockport and never seen Niagara. Forty-four times the Bible speaks of the smoke, and it is about time that somebody preached a sermon recognizing this strange, weird, beautiful, elastic, charming, terrific and fascinating vapor.

Across the Bible sky floats the smoke of Sinai, the smoke of Sodom, the smoke of Ai, the smoke of the pit, the smoke of the volcanic hills when God touched them, and in my text the glorious church of God coming up out of the wilderness like pillars of smoke. In the first place, these pillars of smoke in my text indicate the suffering church of God has endured. What do I mean by the Church? I mean not a building, not a sect, but those who in all ages and all lands and all beliefs love God and are trying to do right. For many centuries the heavens have been black with the smoke of martyrdom. If set side by side, you could girdle the earth with the fires of persecution—Rowland Taylor burned at Hadleigh, Latimer burned at Oxford, John Rogers burned at Smithfield, John Hooper burned at Gloucester, John Huss burned at Constance, Lawrence Sanders burned at Coventry, Joan of Arc burned at Rouen.

Catholicism as well as Protestantism has had its martyrs. It does seem as if when any one sect got complete domination in any land the devil of persecution and cruelty took possession of that sect. Then see the Catholics after the Huguenots. See the Gentiles after the Jews in Touraine, where a great pit was dug and fire lighted at the bottom of the pit, and 160 Jewish victims were consumed. See the Presbyterian Parliament of England, more tyrannical in their treatment of opponents than had been the criminal courts. Persecution against the Baptists by Pele-Baptist. Persecution of the Established Church against the Methodist church. Persecution against the Presbyterians, Under Emperor Diocletian 144,000 Christians were massacred, and 700,000 more of them died from banishment and exposure.

Witness the sufferings of the Waldenses, of the Albigenses, of the Nestorians. Witness St. Bartholomew's massacre. Witness the Duke of Alva driving out of life 18,000 Christians. Witness Herod and Nero and Decius and Hilderbrand and Torquemada and Earl of Montford and Lord Claverhouse, who, when told that he must give account for his cruelties, said "I have no need to account to man, and, as for God, I will take him in my own hands." A red line runs through the church history of 1,900 years, a line of blood. Not by the hundreds of thousands, but by the millions must we count the slain for Christ's sake.

The smoke of martyrs' house and martyrs' bodies is rolling up all at once would have eclipsed the noontday sun and turned the brightest day the world ever saw into a midnight.

Has persecution ceased? Ask that young man who is trying to be a Christian in a store or factory, where from morning to night he is the butt of all the mean witticism of unbelieving employees. Ask that wife whose husband makes her fondness for the house of God and even her kneeling prayer by the bedside a derision and is no more fit for her holy companionship than a robin or a gilded oriole. Compromise with the world and surrender to its conventionalities and it may let you alone, but all who will live godly in a theatre going, card playing, wine drinking, round dancing Christian, and you may escape criticism and social pressure. But be an up and down, out

and out follower of Christ, and worldling will wink to worldling as he speaks your name, and you will be put in many a doggerel and snubbed by those not worthy to blacken your oldest shoes.

For a compromise Christian character an easy time now, but for consecrated behavior grimace and caricature. For the body, thanks to the God of free America there are now no swords or fiery stakes, but for the souls of thousands of the good, in a figurative sense, rack and gibbet and Torquemada. The symbol of the domestic and social and private and public suffering of a great multitude of God's dear children, pillars of smoke. What an exciting scene in India when during the Sepoy rebellion a regiment of Highlanders found the dead body of one of General Wheeler's daughters, who had been insulted and mauled and slain by the Sepoys. So great was the wrath against these murderers that the Scotch regiment sat down, and, cutting off the hair of this dead daughter of General Wheeler, they divided it among them, and each one counted his number of hairs given him, and each took an oath, which was executed, that for each hair of the murdered daughter they would dash out the life of a bestial Sepoy.

Meet me at any depot the world over, and with my eyes closed take me by the hand and lead me so that my feet will not stumble, and without my once looking down or looking on the level take me to some high roof or tower and let me see the tops of the churches, and I will tell you the proportion of suicides, of arson, of murders, of thefts. According as the churches are numerous are the crimes few. According as the churches are few the crimes are numerous. The

most beautiful organization the world ever saw or ever will see is the much maligned church, the friend of all good, the foe of all evil, "fair as the moon and clear as the sun." Beautiful in her Author, beautiful in her mission, the heroine of the centuries, the bride of Christ, the queen of the nations!

You lying and hypocritical world, shut up those slanders about the church of Christ, an institution which, far from being what it ought to be, and never pretending to be perfect, is 500 times better than any other institution that the world ever saw or ever dreamed of. The highest honor I ever had, and the highest honor I shall ever receive, and the highest honor I ever want is to have my name on her records as a member. At her altars I repeated. In her service let me die. From her doors let me be buried. O church of God! Thou home of the righteous! Thou harbor from tempest! Thou refuge for the weary! Thou light-house of many nations! Thou type of heaven! I could kiss thy very dust with ecstasy of affection.

The church of God will become the arbiter of nations. If the world would allow it, it could to-day step in between Germany and France and settle the troubles about Alsace and Lorraine, and between all the other nations that are flying at each other's throats and command peace and disband armies and harness for the plow the war horse now being hitched to ammunition wagons or saddled for cavalry charge. That time must come, or through the increased facility for shooting men and blowing up cities and whelming hosts to instant death, so that we can kill a regiment easier than we could once kill a company and kill a brigade easier than we could once kill a regiment, the patent offices of the world more busy than ever in recognizing new engines of destruction, the human race will after a while will go fighting with one arm, and hobbling with one foot,

stumbling along with one eye, and some ingenious inventor, inspired of the archangel of all mischief, will contrive a machine that will bore a hole to the earth's center, and some desperate nation will throw into that hole enough dynamite to blow this hulk of a planet into fragments, dropping the meteoric stones on surrounding stellar habitations.

That shall not be, for whatever I let go I hang on to my Bible, which tells me that the blacksmith's shop shall yet come to its grandest use when the warrior and the husbandman shall enter it side by side, and the soldier shall throw into its tank of fires his sword, and the farmer shall throw into its bank of fires his sword, and the farmer shall pick it up as a plowshare, and the straightest shall be bent as a crook at each end and then cut in two, and what was one spear shall be two pruning hooks. Down with Moloch and up with Christ! Let no more war horses eat out of the manger where Jesus was born. "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will to men!"

All the wise men in science and medicine and literature and merchandise are gradually coming to believe in Christianity, and soon there will be no people who disbelieve in it except those conspicuous for lack of brain or men with two families, who do not like the Bible because it rebukes their swinish propensities.

The time is hastening when there will be no infidels left except libertines and harlots and murderers. Millions of Christians where once there were thousands, and thousands where once there were hundreds. What a bright evening this, the evening of the nineteenth century. And the twentieth century, which is about to dawn, will, in my opinion, bring universal victory for Christ and the church that now is marching on with the step double quick or, if you prefer the figure of the XIX, is being swept on in the mighty

gates of blessing imposing and grand and majestic and swift like pillars of smoke.

Geologists tell us that we stand on the lid of a world, the heart of which is a raging, raving, awful flame, and some day God will let the red monster out of their imprisonment of centuries, and New York on fire in 1835, and Charleston on fire in 1865, and Chicago on fire in 1872, and Boston on fire in 1873 were only like one spark from a blacksmith's forge as compared with the last universal blaze which will be seen in other world. But gradually the flame will become a great living hue, and then our ruined planet will begin to smoke, and the mountains will smoke, and the valleys will smoke, and the islands will smoke, and the seas will smoke, and the five continents will be five pillars of smoke.

But that will not interfere with your investments if you have taken Christ as your Saviour. Secure heaven as your eternal home, and you can look down upon a dismantled, disrupted and demolished earth without any perturbation.

SPORTING NOTES.

Amendments to Trotting Rules.

The representative of the N. T. A. and A. T. A. at their meeting last week agreed upon a revised code of rules, which will be submitted to members, and afterwards decided upon at the meeting of the Turf Congress. The principal changes are as regard distances; in reference to half mile tracks, the distance is the same as at present, but on mile tracks 80 yards will be the distance.

The present rules provide that there shall be at least two and not more than three timers appointed for every race. An amendment will necessitate the selection of three timers in every instance.

An amendment provides that where a horse is penalized for fraud on part of his driver in attempting to lay up a heat or lose the race the horse so penalized shall not be entitled to any part of the premium.

Section 1 of rule 9 provides that only one horse owned or controlled wholly or partly by the same person, or trained in the same stable within ten days preceding the race, can start in any race. The Conference committee decided to take away from the track managers the right to let two horses owned or trained by the same parties compete under any circumstances.

A TIDY LITTLE WAR.

France has one on hand in China.

TACOMA, Wash., Jan. 16.—The steamer Elmbranch branch brings news from Shanghai that French warships have taken possession of Kwong-Chau-Wan Bay, where a boundary dispute has been pending for several months.

The French commenced operations by sinking two Chinese gun boats, destroying their guns and ammunition and taking the officers abroad the rench ship as prisoners. The warships then shelled twenty Chinese villages, compelling the Chinese troops to move back.

A four hour battle took place at Veg-luec, in which the French lost four killed and twenty-eight wounded. The Chinese loss was heavier.

After the Chinese retreated the French forces were divided into four expeditions, which pillaged and burned many villages on their march back to the seashore. Several mandarins surrendered to prevent the burning of their towns. They are held as hostages to prevent retaliation by the natives.

Every one should remember that by the loss of health, enjoyment and happiness also are lost forever. Check the slightest cough or cold by using Adamson's Botanic Cough Balsam, according to directions printed upon the label of the bottle. 25c. all druggists.

The Canadian Order of Foresters.

For 20 years this society has been doing business, and each year it has been growing in strength and influence. The following table, which gives the standing of the order since its organization in 1879 will show how it has prospered:

Year ending	Members	Chapters	Paid Increase	Reserve	Total Reserve
1879	1,710	11	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
1880	2,410	15	1,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00
1881	3,110	19	1,000.00	1,000.00	3,000.00
1882	3,810	23	1,000.00	1,000.00	4,000.00
1883	4,510	27	1,000.00	1,000.00	5,000.00
1884	5,210	31	1,000.00	1,000.00	6,000.00
1885	5,910	35	1,000.00	1,000.00	7,000.00
1886	6,610	39	1,000.00	1,000.00	8,000.00
1887	7,310	43	1,000.00	1,000.00	9,000.00
1888	8,010	47	1,000.00	1,000.00	10,000.00
1889	8,710	51	1,000.00	1,000.00	11,000.00
1890	9,410	55	1,000.00	1,000.00	12,000.00
1891	10,110	59	1,000.00	1,000.00	13,000.00
1892	10,810	63	1,000.00	1,000.00	14,000.00
1893	11,510	67	1,000.00	1,000.00	15,000.00
1894	12,210	71	1,000.00	1,000.00	16,000.00
1895	12,910	75	1,000.00	1,000.00	17,000.00
1896	13,610	79	1,000.00	1,000.00	18,000.00
1897	14,310	83	1,000.00	1,000.00	19,000.00
1898	15,010	87	1,000.00	1,000.00	20,000.00
1899	15,710	91	1,000.00	1,000.00	21,000.00
1900	16,410	95	1,000.00	1,000.00	22,000.00

In November, 1895, the insurance premiums payable by the members were put upon a sliding scale, and since that time the surplus in the insurance fund has been rapidly increasing, and today it is over \$823,000, all of which is invested in gilt-edged securities in the Dominion of Canada, to which the operations of the society are confined. The membership is upward of 33,000, distributed in every province of the Dominion, and is growing unprecedentedly. The society issues insurance policies for \$500, \$1000, \$1500 and \$2000, at the following rates, the fees being paid monthly in advance:

Age of	On \$500	On \$1000	On \$1500	On \$2000
18 to 25	.35c	60c	90c	\$1.20
25 to 30	.40c	65c	95c	1.30
30 to 35	.45c	70c	1.05	1.40
35 to 40	.40c	85c	1.28	1.70
40 to 45	.55c	\$1.00	1.50	2.00

Not a dollar of the money collected for the insurance fund is or has been used for the expenses of management. Over two million dollars have been paid to members and their dependents since the organization of the society.

The Sick and Funeral Benefit Branch is a very popular department, and upwards of 16,000 of the members of the society are participating in this feature of the order. The benefits are \$3 per week for the first two weeks of illness and \$5.00 per week for the succeeding ten weeks, and \$50 during any year, besides a funeral benefit of \$50. The fees, payable monthly in advance are as follows:

Between 18 and 25 years	25 cents
" 25 and 30 years	30 cents
" 30 and 35 years	35 cents
" 35 and 40 years	40 cents
" 40 and 45 years	45 cents

During the year 1898 over \$48,000 was paid out in sick and funeral benefits, and \$145,000 in death benefits. All physically and morally qualified males between 18 and 45 years of age, who are not debarred on account of their occupation are accepted for membership.

For further particulars enquire of any of the officers or members of the order or address

R. ELLIOTT, THOS. WHITE
H. C. R. Ingersoll, High Sec. Brantford.
Or ERNEST GARTUNG, S. O. Brantford.

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J. W. Doane, of the News
Publishing Co., Truro,
Writes Nov. 3, 1899 :

"I have used BENTLEY'S Liniment for Sprains, Etc., with the most satisfactory results."
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March 28, 1898.

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