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DR. TALMAGE'S SERMON. THE GREAT PREACHER ILLUMINATES AN OBSCURE TEXT.

Significance of the Verse. 'I Answered Thee in the Secret Place of Thunder.'

Dr. Talmage gave a fresh illustration of the power he possesses of extracting valuable lessons from a text which preachers have generally neglected as barren ground.

When I saw the waters of the Red Sea rolling through the Suez Canal they were blue and beautiful and flowing like other waters, but to-night, as the Egyptians look up to them built into walls, now on one side and now on the other, they must have been a wall of water.

Now, thunder, all up and down the Bible, is the symbol of power. The Egyptian plague of hail was accompanied with this full diapason of the heavens.

When my text says, 'I answered thee in the secret place of thunder,' it suggests there is some mystery about the thunder. To the ancients the cause of this bombardment the earth with loud sound must have been one of a mystery than it is to us.

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Now right along by a natural law there is always a spiritual law. As there is a secret place of natural thunder, there is a secret place of moral thunder.

A young man sat in one of the front pews. He was a graduate of Yale, brilliant as they say, and was notoriously dissolute. Everybody knew him and liked him for his geniality, but deplored his moral errantry.

On another aisle of the same church sat an old miser. He paid his pew rent, but he had no other interest in the church.

'Please to call immediately. I have a matter of great importance about which I want to see you. When the pastor came in the old man could not speak for emotion, but after a while gathered self control enough to say, 'I have lived for this world too long. I want to know if you think I can be saved and if so, I wish you would let me know.' Upon his soul the light soon dawned, and the old miser, not only revolutionized in heart, but in life, began to scatter benefactions, and to all the great charities of the day he became cheerful and beneficent.

Another part of the church sat Sabbath after Sabbath a beautiful and talented woman, who was a great society leader. She went to church because that was a respectable thing to do, and in the neighborhood where she lived it was hardly respectable not to.

The pastor and her entire demeanor was changed, and though she was not called upon to sacrifice any of her amenities of life, she consecrated her beauty, her social position, her family, her all to God and the church and used her position as a means of blessing.

The pastor and the officers of the church were on the lookout for the solution of this religious phenomenon. 'Where is it,' they said, 'and who is it and what is it?' At last the discovery was made and all was explained.

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When the day will come—God hasten it—when people will find out the velocity, the majesty, the multiplicity of prayer. We brag about our limited express trains, which put us down a thousand miles away in twenty-four hours.

The reason that we ministers do not accomplish more is because others do not pray enough for ourselves. Every minister could tell you a thrilling story of sermons—sermons hasty and impromptu, because of funerals and sickbeds and annoyances in the parish.

But what is sufficient for the work I undertake? I call upon you who have long been my coadjutors to go into the secret place of the Almighty, and every day from now until my work is done on the other side of the sea to have me in your prayers.

The blessing of God is asked on the food, and the meal over the family Bible

is put upon the white table cloth, and a chapter is read and a prayer made, which is not for the interests for this world and the next. The children may not so much attention to the prayer, for it is about the same thing day after day, but it puts upon them an impression that 10,000 years will only make more vivid remembrance.

Two funerals after awhile—not more than two years apart, for it is seldom that there is more than that lapse of time between father's going and mother's going—two funerals put out of sight the old folks. But where are the children? The daughters are in homes where they are incarnations of good sense, industry and piety.

On over the country road we ride—the road a little rough, for the spring weather is not quite settled, and once down in a rut it is hard to get the wheels out again without breaking the shafts.

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