

DR. TALMAGE'S SERMON.

AN IMPRESSIVE LESSON IN THE ROMAN COLISEUM.

Condition of Rome When St. Paul Preached There—Empire and People Given Over to Lust and Cruelty—Christianity's Mighty Work.

The Cruel Heathen.

Rev. Dr. Talmage discoursed from the text Romans 1, 13. "I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also."

Rome! What a city it was when Paul visited it! What a city it is now! Rome! The place where Virgil sang and Horace gloried and Terence laughed and Catullus conspired and Ovid dramatized and Nero addressed and Vespaian persecuted and Sulla legislated and Cicero thundered and Aretinus and Decius and Calpurnia and Julian and Hadrian and Constantine and Augustus reigned and Paul the apostle preached the gospel.

I am not much of a draftsman, but I have in my memorandum book a sketch which I made in the winter of 1881 when I went out to the gate through which Paul entered Rome and walked up the very street he walked up to see something how the city must have looked to him as he came in on the gospel errand.

Palaces on the right, palaces on the left, a little missionary advanced. Piled up wickedness. Enthroned acursedness. Twisted cruelties. Altars to sham deities. Glorified delusions. Pillared, arched, domed, turreted abominations.

Wreaths of all sorts at a high premium and the Roman games were in vogue. And now he passes by the foundations of a building which is to be almost unparalleled for vastness. You can see by the walls, which have begun to rise, that here is to be something enough stupendous to astound the centuries. Aye, it is the Coliseum.

Their Moments of Shame. Of the theater at Ephesus where Paul fought with wild beasts, the temple of Diana, of the Parthenon, of Pharaoh's palace at Memphis, and of other great things the ruins of which have been seen it has been my privilege to address you, but a member of my family asked me recently why I had not spoken to you of the Coliseum at Rome, since its moral and religious lessons are so impressive.

Perhaps while in Rome the law of the most ancient and noblest of nations was in the manner of the dungeon where Paul was incarcerated. I had measured the opening at the top of the dungeon through which Paul had been let down, and it was 22 inches by 26. The ceiling at its highest point was 7 feet from the floor and the sides of the room the ceiling was 5 feet high. The room the widest was 15 feet. There was a seat of rock 2 1/2 feet high. There was a shelf 4 feet high. The only furniture was a spider's web suspended from the roof, which I saw by the torchlight I carried.

There was the subterranean passage from the dungeon to the arena, and I thought that the prisoner could be taken directly from prison to trial. The dungeon was built out of volcanic stone from the Alban Mountains. Oh, how was a dismal and terrific place. You never saw coal hole so dark or so forbidding. It is in the center of the arena, and I remembered that was the best thing that the world would afford the most illustrious being, except one, that it ever saw, and that from that place Paul went out to die. From that spot I visited the Coliseum—one of the noblest and most magnificent of architecture that the world ever saw.

I saw it morning, noon and night, and I threw a spell on me from which I could not break away. Although now a vast ruin, the Coliseum is so well preserved that we can stand in the center and recall all that it has seen. It is in the center of the arena, and it is at its greatest length 612 feet. After it had furnished seats for 80,000 people it had room for 15,000 more, and so that 100,000 people could sit and stand transfixed by its scenes of outrage and martyrdom and brutality and horror.

Instead of our modern tactics of admiring, they entered by ivory check, and a check dug up near Rome within a few miles was marked, "Section 5, Lowest Row, Seat No. 18." You understand that the building was not constructed for an audience to be addressed by human beings, but for the purpose of seeing and to be heard across it, but was made only for seeing and was circular, and at any point allowed full view of the spectacle.

Refinements of Cruelty. In the arena in the center in olden times strewn with pounded stones or gravel, and not to be too slippery with human feet, for if it were too slippery it would be fatal. The sand flashed here and there with sparkles of silver and gold, and Nero added cinnabar and Carthage added chrysolite. The sides of the arena were covered with cushions and eleven feet high, so that the wild beasts of the arena could not climb up to the audience. On the top of these cushions of smooth marble was a metal railing having wooden rollers, which easily revolved, so that if a panther should strike after arches, and on each side of his paw touch any one of those rollers it would revolve and drop him back again into the arena.

Back of this marble wall surrounding the arena was a level platform of stone, adorned with statues of gods and goddesses and the artistic devices of men and conquerors. Here were movable seats for the emperor and the imperial wife and witnesses with which he surrounded himself. Before the place where the emperor sat the gladiators would walk immediately after entering the arena, crying, "Cesar! Those about to die salute thee."

Organized Murder and Torture.

But where was the sport to come from? Well, I went into the cellars opening off from the arena, and I saw the places where they kept the hyenas and lions and panthers and wild beasts and beastly violence of all sorts without food or water until made fierce enough for the arena, and I saw the underground rooms where the gladiators were accustomed to wait until the clapping of the people outside demanded that they come forth armed—to murder or be murdered.

All the arrangements were completed, as enough of the cellars and galleries still remain to indicate. What fun they must have had turning lions without food or drink upon an unarmed disciple of Jesus Christ!

At the dedication of this Coliseum 9,000 wild beasts and 10,000 immortal men were slain, so that the blood of men and beast was not a brook, but a river; not a pool, but a lake. Having been in that way dedicated, to be surprised when I tell you that Emperor Probus on one occasion threw 1,000 ostriches, and 1,000 ostriches. What fun it must have been—the sound of trumpets, the roar of wild beasts and the groans of dying men while in the gallery the wives and children of those down under the lion's paw were laughing and shrieking and shrieking in widowhood and orphanage, while 100,000 people clapped their hands, and there was a "Ha! ha!" wide as Rome and deep as perdition!

The corpses of that arena were put on a cart or dragged by a hook out of the arena, and the bodies were thrown into the Tiber. What an excitement it must have been when two combatants entered the arena, the one with sword and shield and the other with net and spear. He dodges the sword and then flings the net over the head of the opponent and the man who flung the net puts his foot on the neck of the fallen swordsman, and spear in hand looks up to the galleries, as much as to say, "Shall I let him up, or shall I plunge this spear into his body until he dies?"

The audience had two signs, either of which they might give. If they waved their flags, it meant spare the fallen combatant. If they turn their thumbs down, it meant slay him. Occasionally the audience would wave their flags, and the fallen would be let up, but that was too tardy a sport for most occasions, and generally the thumbs from the galleries were turned down, and with that sign would be heard the accompanying shout of "Kill! Kill! Kill! Kill!"

Cruelty Added to Cruelty. Yet it was far from being a monotone of sport, for there was a change of program in that wondrous Coliseum. Under a strange and powerful machinery, beyond any thing modern, the whole floor of the arena would begin to rock and roll and then give away, and there would appear a lake of bright water, and on its banks trees would spring up rustling with foliage, and tigers appeared among the jungles, and armed men would appear to slay and to be slain, and tiger hunt. Then on the lake in the Coliseum armed ships would float, and there would be a sea fight. What fun! What lots of fun! When pestilence came, in order to appease the gods, in this Coliseum a sacrifice would be made, and a man would be thrown into the water, and the amphitheater shouting, "The Christians to the wild beasts!" and there would be a cracking of human bones in the jaws of leonine ferocity.

But all this was to be stopped. By the outraged sense of public decency? No. There is only one thing that has ever stopped a man from doing what he is doing, and that is Christianity, and it was Christianity, whether you like its form or not, that stopped this massacre of centuries. One day while in the Coliseum a Roman victory was being celebrated, and 100,000 enraptured spectators were looking down upon the arena, and the emperor, standing and slaying each other to death, an Asiatic monk of the name of Telemachus was so overcome by the cruelty that he leaped from the gallery into the arena and ran in between the two swordsmen and pushed first one back and then the other back and broke up the combat.

Of course the audience was affronted at having their sport stopped, and they hurled stones at the head of Telemachus until he fell dead in the arena. But when the day was passed, and the passions of the people had cooled off, they would come to the arena, and the brave and noble and Christian Telemachus, and as a result of the overdone cruelty the human sacrifices of the Coliseum were forever abolished.

The Same Spirit Still Manifested. What a good thing, say you, that such cruelties have ceased. My friends, the same spirit of ruinous amusements and of moral sacrifice is abroad in the world today, although it takes other shapes. Last summer I saw a newspaper which carried a scene of pugilism on which all Christendom looked down, for I saw the papers on the other side of the Atlantic Ocean giving whole columns of it. Will some one tell me in what respect that brutality of last summer was superior to the brutality of the Coliseum? In some respects it was worse, and as much as the 19th century pretends to be more merciful and more decent than the 6th century.

That pugilism is winning admiration in this century is positively proved by the fact that years ago such collision was reported in a half dozen lines of newspaper, if reported at all, and now it takes the whole side of a newspaper to tell what transpired between the first blood drawn by one loafer and the throwing up of the sponge by the other loafer, and it is not the newspaper's fault, for newspapers are given to the people want, and when newspapers put career on your table it is because you prefer career.

The same spirit of brutality is seen today in may an ecclesiastical court when a man is put on trial. Look at the attentances of the prosecuting ministers, and not in all cases, but in many cases, you will find nothing but diabolism inspires them. They let out on one poor minister who cannot defend himself the lion of ecclesiasticalism, and have no regard for the "spirit of jealousy, and if the prosecuting minister flung on his back the overthrown gospelizer and looks up, spear in hand, to see whether the galleries and ecclesiastics would have him let up or slain. And, lo! many of the thumbs are down.

Train the Children Right. One half the world is down and the other half is up, and the half that is up has its heel on the half that is down. If you, as a boss workman, or as a contractor, or as a bishop, or as a State or National official, or as a potent factor in social life, or in any way are oppressing any one, know that the same devil that

possessed the Roman Coliseum oppresses you. The Diocletians are not at all dead. The collars leading into the arena of life's struggle are not all emptied of their tigers. The vivisection by young doctors of dogs and cats and birds most of the time adds nothing to human discovery, but is only a continuation of Vespaian's Coliseum.

The cruelties of the world generally begin in nurseries, and in home circles, and in day schools. The child that is fed with a pin, or the low feeling that sets two dogs into combat, or that bullies a weak or crippled playmate, or the indifference that starves a canary bird, needs only to be developed in order to make a first-class Nero or a full armed A. P. G. You would be a good sentence to be written on the top line of a child's book, and a fit inscription to be embroidered in the armchair of the sitting room, and an appropriate motto for judge and jury and district attorney and sheriff to look at in court-house halls. "Blessed be the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy!"

And so the ruins of that Coliseum preach to me. Indeed the most impressive things on earth are ruins. The four greatest structures ever built are in ruins. The Parthenon in ruins, the temple of Diana in ruins, the temple of Jerusalem in ruins, the Coliseum in ruins. Indeed the earth itself will yet be a pile of ruins, the mountains in ruins, the seas in ruins, the cities in ruins, the hemispheres in ruins. You will be further and all up and down the Heavens are worlds burned up, worlds wrecked, worlds extinct, worlds abandoned. Worlds on worlds in ruins!

But I am glad to say it is the same old Heaven, and in all that world there is not one of the early gates will ever be come unbinged. Not one of the amethystine towers will ever fall. Not one of the mansions will ever decay. Not one of the chariots will ever be unwhipped. Not one of the thrones will ever be unrocked. Not one of the gates of Heaven, for it is an everlasting Heaven. Through Christ the Lord get ready for residence in the eternal palace.

Night in the Coliseum.

The last evening before leaving Rome for Brindisi and Athens and Egypt and Palestine I went alone to the Coliseum. There was not a living soul in all the immense arena. Even those accustomed to sell their lives and souls to the gallies had all gone away. The place was so overwhelmingly silent I could hear my own heart beat with the emotions aroused by the place and hour. I paced the arena. I walked down into the dens where the hyenas were once kept. I ascended to the place where the Emperor would sit to watch the gladiators and people had gazed in enchantment.

To break the silence I shouted, and that seemed to awaken the echoes, echo upon echo. And those awakened echoes seemed to address me, saying: "Men die, but the good are remembered, and the architect who planned this structure; the 60,000 enslaved Jews brought by Titus from Jerusalem and who toiled on these walls, the gladiators who fought in this arena, the emperors and empresses who had place on yonder platform, the millions who during century sat and watched the gladiators pass away, but enough of the Coliseum stands to tell the story of cruelty and pomp and power—500 years of bloodshed."

Then, as I stood there, there came to me another burst of echoes, which seemed throbbing with the prayers and songs and hymns of the Emperor Trajan, who sat here; the answer came, "Gone to judgment." "Where is Emperor Trajan, who sat here?" "Gone to judgment." "Where are all the multitudes who clapped and shouted and waved flags to let the vanquished up to have them flung into thumbs down?" The echoes answered, "Gone to judgment." I inquired, "All?" And they answered, "All."

I looked up to the sky above the ruins, and it was full of clouds scurrying swiftly past, and those clouds seemed as though they had faces and some of the faces smiled, and some of them frowned, and they seemed to have wings, and some of the wings were moonlight and the others thunder charged, and the voices of those clouds overpowered the echoes beneath. "Behold, he cometh with clouds, and every eye shall see him."

The Last Looking.

And as I stood looking up along the walls of the Coliseum they rose higher and higher, and higher, until the amphitheater seemed to be filled with the nations of the past, and all the nations of the present, and all the nations of the future, those who went down under the paws of wild beasts, and those who sat waving flags to let up the conquered, and those who held thumbs down to command the gladiators to be slain, and small and great, and emperor and slave, and pastor and people, and righteous and wicked, the amphitheater seeming to rise to indefinite heights on all sides of me, and in the center of that amphitheater, instead of the arena of the Coliseum, I saw the throne of God, higher and higher, and higher, and higher, and on it sat the Christ for whom the martyrs died and against whom the Diocletians plotted their persecutions, and waving one hand toward the piled up splendors to the right of him he cried, "Come, ye blessed!" and waving the other hand toward the piled up glooms on the left of him he cried, "Depart, ye cursed."

And so the Coliseum of Rome that evening of 1889 seemed enlarged into the amphitheater of the last judgment, and I felt that the throne of God that mighty structure of light and truth, praying to Almighty God, through Jesus Christ, for mercy in that day for which all other days were made, and that as I expected mercy from God I might exercise mercy toward others and have more of the "spirit of jealousy, and if the prosecuting minister flung on his back the overthrown gospelizer and looks up, spear in hand, to see whether the galleries and ecclesiastics would have him let up or slain. And, lo! many of the thumbs are down.

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AGRICULTURAL TOPICS.

A FEW SUGGESTIONS FOR OUR RURAL READERS.

Bars are Usually an Abomination on the Farm—Farmers Not Successful as House Trainers—Hogs Should Have Warm Quarters—Home Hints.

The Farm. I know a home, outlined with stone, With life and soul in a dream; The live and the dead in one sweet tone, With love and peace their theme. The feathery people clap their wings, And in a shrill noise rejoice; And to the best great joy it brings, To hear their master's voice.

The bill gives charming scenes to view, That spot the artist loves; The sun, the sky, the lake so blue, Lit up with white-winged doves. The rushing brook the woods, the rock, The dew on the old stone mill; When winter's chimed from Nature's clock, The poet hovers still.

The golden heads weave in their wealth, The hidden harvest moon; The bearded dew breaks forth good health But gone at summer's noon. The flowers and their pleasures passed; Comes one with joy's awe, The old year cannot always last, And now, it bids "Adieu."

Just step across this "story" line, Some dreary winter's night, And peep within where light doth shine, You'll see a happy sight. Orange and all up and down there; The music bath a charm; With games and nuts, they all declare, —Farm Journal.

Bucket for Cleaning Cows.

In cold weather, cows are, or at least should be, housed in comfortable stables, and every owner of a cow knows that means that she must be milked in a warm place. If the milk is wanted for cows as a rule are not as cleanly as one would like to have them. For an apparatus to wash and dry her udder before milking, have a bucket with a hook on one side to carry a sponge, and a cigar box fastened on the other side, in which your cloths are kept. Now the first thing to do is to clean away all droppings, then litter with clean straw, next card your cow, then wash her udder clean with sponge and water, and dry with cloth.

Farm Gates and Bars.

I have sometimes thought that it was a pity that the man who invented bars did not die when he was young, writes John M. Stahl, in the Practical Farmer. Bars are not much improvement over a gap in the fence, and they cost almost as much as a gate. Except in places where entrance will be very infrequently desired, it is cheaper to have a gate than bars; but, as first indicated, there are places where bars are justifiable. There is an easier way of making bars than by cutting mortises through a post. To do this one must have an auger, chisel, etc., and the work is not inconsiderable. A much easier way of making a bar post is to straighten one side of it, and then cut spaces in the edge, as shown in the cut. These spaces are easily cut. Saw into the edge of the post, and split out the block with a hatchet. It is an advantage to have a chisel, as with it the split surface can be smoothed down better. Then, against the edge of the post a strip of tough wood—a strip sawed from an inch oak board answers very nicely—is firmly nailed or bolted. Anyone can make this bar post. Split bar rails are much better than sawed ones, for the reason that the split will follow the grain, while the saw does not. The saw will frequently cut across the fibres, weakening the rail. Of course, the lighter the rail is, with the requisite strength, the better. In the West hickory is the best available wood. If cut and split when the bark peels off, it becomes very hard and tough, and is light. Where it is to be had, chestnut doubtless makes an excellent bar-rail.

Any farmer can make a first-class farm gate. Every gate should now be made wide enough to admit a self-binder. It pays to use planed lumber in making gates, and to paint them. In the minute depressions and under the moisture collects, and remains, and rots the wood. The pieces of a gate should be given one coat before they are put together, the places that are joined together should have a second coat. It is best to put the parts together while this coat is yet wet. All the tools needed in making farm gates are saw, hatchet, small augers, and monkey-wrench—certainly tools that every farmer should have, and that he can use. It is not necessary to have the end-posts made by cutting mortises in a solid piece of timber. Lay the boards down in place, and then bolt on each side of them a piece of tough board one inch thick and six inches wide. One may fit blocks in between the boards, if he desires to make a neater job. The cut shows a square end view of the gate, showing how the two boards are made to answer for an end post, having mortises cut to admit the horizontal boards of the gate. I prefer to use small bolts in fastening the vertical boards in place, but long bolts, wrought-iron or wire nails, that can be driven through and clinched, answer the purpose as well. A gate made in this way is strong enough, if strong enough at other

Peas are an excellent food for milk cows, or for hogs. Take a piece of fall plowing and harrow it well to make a good seed bed. Sow broadcast two and one-half bushels of the small Canada peas, or three bushels of marrows, and plow under four or five inches. The pea is a deep-rooted plant and should be put well down. Sow on top of the ground one bushel of oats to hold the peas up. For hogs they come in as a green forage after clover, and may be cut with a scythe, and thrown in to them, or a movable fence may be put around a small portion of the field. Good success has been obtained by putting the peas and oats in the silo. Or they may be cut and cured, threshed and ground into meal. Try two or three acres as an experiment.

Winter Care of Seeds.

Many farmers sow, for their own use, garden seeds from well developed specimens, as they are then quite certain to have what they want for planting the following spring.

Home Hints.

OIL door latches and locks occasionally blither.

A LITTLE paraffine rubbed on screws will make them enter wood more easily.

NUTS taste sweeter and are more easily deested if lightly sprinkled with salt.

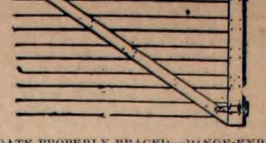
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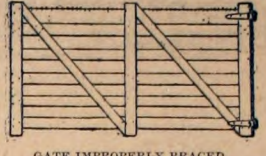
THERE are some people in this world who would not be satisfied if they were perfectly contented.

AGRICULTURAL TOPICS.

WORK OF THE STATE SOLONS AT THE CAPITAL.



hing end to the upper part of the hinge end. When it runs from the upper part of the hinge end to the lower part of the latch end, it does not brace, and is of very little benefit, indeed. To have the braces run to



and from an upright piece in the center, as shown in cut, greatly weakens the brace, without any compensating advantages. It is well to use two boards for braces, one on each side, bolting them together, the bolts passing through the horizontal boards of the gate, also.

Farmers as Horse Trainers.

When farmers read of Nancy Hanks and other fleet-footed horses breaking the world's record in their special classes, and soon after commencing in the market the combined value of a dozen good farms; the temptation is great for themselves to turn horse trainers. While the development of the horse speed is commendable, the American Agriculturist says, it is a vocation in itself, and is fraught with such dangers of financial disaster that but few farmers can long withstand the strain. If living in an old settled community, run back over memory's pages for twenty years and you will see that very few of the men and boys who imagined they possessed a trotter, and tried to develop the same in the usual way, were successful. Reckoning their time only as valuable as that of the hired man, there would be a loss in nearly every case, to say nothing of the evil habits contracted by associating with the rough element that is too generally a part of the racing fraternity. There is always more money made by the first owner, if he simply drives his horse on the common road, and if they develop into good stagers or show good gait, they readily find a purchaser at a fair price, often for more than the animal is worth, or will ever sell for again. Any farmer who continually neglects his farm operations to develop the speed of a green horse on the race course almost invariably in after years regrets the course then pursued. Another serious point in the case is that as soon as a horse shows a good gait, he is favored in every way possible, has the best care and attention, and if worked at all is given the long end of the double tree when perhaps his mate, if given an equal chance, would have proved the fleetest of the two. Always remember there is no short road to wealth, even in the development of trotters.

A Neglected Fodder Crop.

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LEGISLATIVE DOINGS.

WORK OF THE STATE SOLONS AT THE CAPITAL.

Record of One Week's Business—Measures Presented, Considered and Passed—What Our Public Servants Are Doing—In and Around Legislative Halls.

The Law-Makers.

Wednesday in the Senate a committee was appointed to investigate the operation of school book and school furniture companies. Senator Brands offered the following remarkable resolution, which went over under the rules:

Resolved, That an epidemic Asiatic cholera is imminent, and the national paper currency is considered to be a ready medium for the transmission of cholera germs, and offers objections to disinfection, therefore, be it resolved, That the representatives in Congress of this State be requested to secure the passage of a bill withdrawing all paper money from circulation and authorizing the issue in stead of the amount printed or engraved on sheets of aluminum.

Senator Johnson's bill, amending the Australian ballot law, was ordered to a third reading. The resolutions on the death of Milton W. Matthews and James G. Blaine were adopted after several Senators had been requested to secure the passage of the bill. The House passed the measure by a vote of 100 yeas to 90 nays. The House joint resolution protesting against the closing of the World's Fair on Sunday was concurred in. The bill appropriating \$20,000 for State printing until July 1 was passed. The House Committee on Insurance recommended the passage of a bill repealing the compulsory education law, and all that remains to be done before wiping the law from the statute books is for Governor Hovey to call on the Governor to sign the bill. The measure came up on third reading in the Senate and was passed without a dissenting voice. The House was then adjourned to the morning of the 11th. The House waited two hours of time discussing the Hawaiian annexation scheme, and after all the war of words had been exhausted, a communication was spread before the House by the Speaker from the Indiana Legislature reciting a resolution adopted by the General Assembly of Indiana, memorializing Congress for a new Cabinet officer, to be known as Secretary of Labor, and asking similar action by other States. The committee on labor and industrial affairs. The Speaker announced the appointment of Farrell and Kent as additional members of the committee on labor and industrial affairs. The committee on labor and industrial affairs. The Speaker announced the appointment of Farrell and Kent as additional members of the committee on labor and industrial affairs.

The legislature effected its usual Friday adjournment. In the Senate there was a lively struggle before it could be accomplished. The bill was passed by a vote of 10 yeas to 90 nays. The House was then adjourned to the morning of the 11th. The House waited two hours of time discussing the Hawaiian annexation scheme, and after all the war of words had been exhausted, a communication was spread before the House by the Speaker from the Indiana Legislature reciting a resolution adopted by the General Assembly of Indiana, memorializing Congress for a new Cabinet officer, to be known as Secretary of Labor, and asking similar action by other States. The committee on labor and industrial affairs. The Speaker announced the appointment of Farrell and Kent as additional members of the committee on labor and industrial affairs.

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