TALMAGE'S SERMON.

DISCOURSE DELIVERED IN OSKA-LOOSA, IA., SUNDAY, FEB. 21.

Heavenly Congratulations His Thoms. The Nearness of the Celestial and the Terrestrial-Joy in Heaven Over the Repenting of One Sinful Soul. OSKALOOSA, Feb. 21.-Rev. Dr. Talmage

preached here today to an enormous audience. He expects to be absent from home about ten days, during which period he speaks in as many cities. The subject of his sermon was "Heavenly Congratulations." His evident intention was to make worlds that seem a great way off from each other appear very near. His text was taken from Luke xv, 7, "Likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons who need no repentance." A lost sheep! Nothing can be more thoroughly lost. I look through the window of a shepherd's house at night. The candles are lighted. The shepherd has just placed his staff against the mantel. He has taken off his coat, shaken out of it the dust and hung it up. I see by the candle-light that there are neighbors who have come in. The shepherd, fagged out with the long tramp, sits down on a bench, and the wife and children and the neighbors say to him, "Come, now, tell us how you found the poor thing." "Well," he says, "this morning I went out to the yard to look at the flock. No sooner had I looked over the fence than I saw something wrong. The fact was they did not count right. Ninety-five, ninety-six, ninety-seven, ninety-eight, ninety-nine—only ninety-nine. McDonald, you know we had a hundred. And I wondered which one was gone, and I began again, and I counted ninety-five, ninety-six, ninety-seven, ninety-eight, nine-ty-nine. Well, I whistled up the dogs, and I started on the fields and across the bridges, and I tracked the moors, and I leaped the gullies, but no bleating of the poor thing did I hear. I said to myself, The lamb must have fallen into a ditch, or a pack of wolves from the mountain must have torn it to pieces and sucked its life out.' But I could not give it You see it was a pet lamb. It that one with the black spot on the right shoulder that used to come and lick my hand as I crossed the field, and somehow I could not give it up. So I went on and on and on until after awhile I heard the dogs bark, and I sail, 'What's that?' Then I hastened to the top of the hill, and I looked down and there I saw the poor lamb. It had fallen into the ditch, and as I came where it was and bent over the ditch and stooped down to lift the poorthing out, I wish you could have seen the loving and imploring and tender way it looked at me. I lifted it out, and it was all covered with the slush and the mud. It was an awful thing to do, but I lifted it out, and it was so lame and so weak it could not walk alone, so I threw it over my shoulders and I started homeward, and the condition of that lamb you may judge of from the coat which I have just hung up. But I tramped on and on until it is safe in the yard, poor thing! Thank God, thank God!" Then the shepherd's wife spread the table and brought out the best fare that the cabin could afford, and they sat up very late that night, and they talked, and they laughed, and they sang, and they ate, and they drank, and they danced, and told over and over and over again the story of the lost sheep that was found.

With such tenderness and rusticity of il lustration does Christ represent the soul's going off and the soul's coming back, when he says, "Likewise there is joy in heaven among the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons that need no repentance." To repent is to feel that you are bad, and to be sorry about it, and to turn over a new leaf, and to pray for forgiveness and help. Just as soon as a man does that. they hear right away of it in heaven. There are no gossips in glory going around to chatter and laugh when a man

falls, but there are many souls in glory who are glad to run about and tell it when a man is saved. The news goes very quick from gate to gate, and from north wall to south wall, and from east wall to west wall, and in three minutes every citizen of heaven has heard of it, for "there is joy in heaven among the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth."

I can very easily understand how there should be joy in heaven over a Pentecost with three thousand souls saved in one day—no mystery about that; I can understand how there should be joy in heaven over the Parish of Schotts, when four hundred souls were saved under one sermon of Mr. Livingston; I can understand how there should be joy in heaven over the great awakening in the time of Harland Page, when in one year four hundred and seventy-three thousand souls were brought to God in the United States; I can understand very easily how there should be joy in heaven over five hundred thousand souls converted in 1857, in this country; but mark you, my text announces there is joy in heaven among the angels of God over one, just one, sinner that repenteth.

Some cathedrals have one tower; som cathedrals have two, three, four towers. Did you ever hear them all ring at once! I am told that the bell in the cathedral of St. Paul rings only on rare occasions, for instance, at the death or the birth of a king. Have you seen a cathedral with four towers, and have you heard them all strike into one great chime of gladness? Here is a man who is moral. He is an example to a great many professors of religion in some things; he never did a mean thing in his life; he pays all his debts, and is a good citizen and a good neighbor, but he says he is not a Christian.

Some day the Holy Spirit comes into his heart and he sees that he cannot depend upon his morality for salvation. He says: "O Lord God, I have been depending upon my good works; I find I am a sinner, and I want thy salvation. Lord, for Jesus' sake, have mercy on me!" And God pardons him, and immediately one of the towers of heaven strikes a silvery chime, for there are four towers to the heavenly temple. Here is a man who is bad; he knows he is bad, and everybody else knows he is bad, but he is not an outcast—far from being an outcast. He moves in respectable circles. But one day, by the power of the Holy Ghost, he rouses up to see his sinfulness and he says: "O Lord, have mercy! I am a wanderer, and without thee I perish. Have mercy!" God hears him, and immediately two of the towers of heaven strike a silvery

But here is an outcast. He was picked up last night out of the gutter and carried to the police station. He has been in the penitentiary three times. He is covered and soaked with loathsomeness and abomination. Arousing from his debauch, he cries out: "O God, have mercy on me. Thou who didst pardon the penitent thief, hear me cry for mercy." And the Lore listens and pardons, and no sooner is the poor wretch pardoned than three of the great towers of heaven strike up a silvery chime. But here is a wait of the street. chime. But here is a waif of the street. She passes under the gaslight, and your soul shudders with a great horror. No pity for her. No commiseration for her. As she passes down the street she hears a song in a midnight mission, and as she listens to that song she hears:

All may come, whoever will, This Man receives poor sinners still. She puts into that harbor; she kneels

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says: "O Lord! Thou who didst have mercy on Mary Magdalen, take my blistered feet off the red hot pavement of hell." God says, "My daughter, thy sins are forgiven thee; go in peace." Now, all the four towers of heaven strike a silvery chime, and they who pass through the celestial streets say: "What's that? Why, the worst sinner must have been saved. Hear all the four towers ring and ring and ring!" "And there is joy in heaven among the angels of God over one

sinner that repenteth." HEAVEN'S HAPPINESS MAY BE AUGMENTED. My subject impresses you, I think, with the thought that it is possible for us to augment the happiness of heaven. Peo-ple think that souls before the throne are as happy as they can be. I deny it. Look at that mother before the throne of God. When she died she left her son in this world a vagabond. That son repented of his iniquities and came to God. The report of that salvation has reached heaven. Do you tell me that mother before the throne of God has not her joy richly augmented? There is many a man in this house today who could go out with a torch and kindle a new bonfire of victory on the hills of heaven. If you would this day re-pent and come to God, the news of your salvation would reach heaven, and then, hark! to the shout of the ransomed. Your little child went away from you into the good land. While she was here you brought her all kinds of beautiful pres-

Sometimes you came home at nightfall with your pockets full of gifts for her, and no sooner did you put your night key into the latch than she began at you, saying, "Father, what have you brought me?" She is now before the throne of God. Can you bring her a gift today? You may. Coming to Christ and repenting of sin, the tidings will go up to throne of God and your child will hear of it. Oh, what a gift for her soul today! She will skip with new gladness on the everlasting hills when she

hears of it. I was at Sharpsburg during the war, and one day I saw a sergeant dash past on a lathered horse, the blood dripping from the spurs. I said, "That sergeant must be going on a very important message, he must be carrying a very important dispatch, or he wouldn't ride like that." Here are two angels of God flitting through the house, flitting toward the throne on quick dispatch. What is the news? Carrying up the story of souls repentant and forgiven, carrying the news to the throne of God, carrying the news to your kindred who are forever saved. Oh, "there is joy in heaven among the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth." And suppose this whole audience should turn to the Lord? Heaven would be filled with dox ologies. O heaven, beat with all thy hammers that the rock may break. O heaven, strike with all thy gleaming swords that our souls may be free. "I was reading of a king who, after gain-

ing a great victory, said to his army, "No, no shouting: let everything be in quiet; no shouting." But if this hour your soul should come to God, nothing could stop the shouting of the armies of God before the throne, for "there is joy in heaven among the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth."

In some families they keep a vacant chair and a vacant plate for the departed, but if in some of your households you kept a vacant chair and a vacant plate for those who have gone away from you into the next world, the vacant chairs and the vathat. Right beside your loved one in that good land there is a vacant chair, not made vacant by death, for death never enters there; it is a vacant chair for you. Will you

SYMPATHY IN HEAVEN FOR EARTH. My subje also impresses me with the idea that heaven and earth are in close sympathy. People talk of heaven as though it were a great way off. They say it is hundreds of thousands of miles before you reach the first star, and then you go hundreds of thousands of miles before you get to the second star, and then it is millions of miles before you reach heaven. They say heaven is the center of the universe and we are on the rim of the universe. That is not the idea of my text. I think the heart of heaven beats very close to on: world. We measure distances by the time taken to traverse those distances

It used to be a long distance to San Francisco. Many weeks and months were passed before you could reach that city. Now it is six or seven days. It used to be six weeks before you could voyage from here to Liverpool. Now you can go that distance in six or seven days. And so I neasure the distance between earth and heaven, and I find it is only a flash. It is one instant here and another instant there. It is very near today. Do you not feel the breath of heaven on your face? Christ says in one place it is not twentyfour hours' distance, when he says to the penitent thief, "This day, this day, shalt thou be with me in paradise." It is not a day, it is not an hour, it is not a minute, it

Oh, how near heaven is to earth. By oceanic cable you send a message. As it is expensive to send a message, you compress a great deal of meaning in a few words. sometimes in two words you can put vast neaning. And it seems to me that the angels of God who carry news from earth to heaven need to take up this hour in regard to your soul, only two words in order to kindle with gladness all the redeemed before the throne, only two words, "Father saved," "mother saved," "son saved," "daughter saved." And "there is joy in heaven among the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.

is not a second.

SALVATION OF THE SOUL. My subject also impresses me with the fact that the salvation of the soul is of vast importance. If you should make \$200,000 this year, do you suppose that news would be carried to heaven? It would not be of enough importance or significance to be carried heavenward. If at the next uadrennial election you are made president of the United States, do you suppose that news would be carried to heaven? Do you suppose that the news of a revolution in France or Spain would be carried to heaven? These things are not of enough importance, but there is one item that is sure to be carried. It is the salvation of your soul. It is your repentance before

The flying hoofs of God's couriers clash brough the gates and the news goes from gate to mansion, and from mansion to teme, and from temple to throne, and "there is joy in heaven" among the angels of God over one sinner forgiven. It must be of vast importance to be of any moment in heaven, your salvation, in that land where gladnesses are the everyday occurrence, in that land where the common stones of the field are jasper and emerald and chrysoprasus and carbuncle and sardenyx. And ret the news of your salvation makes joy

refore the throne of God. You remember years ago, a stage driver in the White mountains became very reckless. He had a large number of passengers on the stage, and the stage was drawn by six horses, wild and ungovernable, and he drove near the precipice, and he drove off, the stage with its precious freight rolling down the embaykment, and many were slain, but few were saved. I suppose when they wrote home they wrote with congratulation at their rescue. The angels of God look down and they see men driving on the edge of great precipices of ruin and danger, drawn by wild, leaping, foaming and ungovernable perils in this life, and if any shall escape before they capsize, do you

Persons troubled with rheumatism should read the following from Mrs. N. M. Peters, of East Des Moines, Iowa. their left side. The cause has long been She says: "I had suffered from rheuma- a puzzle to physicians. Metropolitan tism the greater part of the time for nearly seven years. At times I was almost helpless. I doctored a great deal Franklin Miles, the eminent Indiana for it with physicians and tried electric specialist in nervous and heart diseases. iness transactions, and financially able try Chamberlain's Pain Balm and was so His new Heart Cure, a wonderful remto carry out any obligations made by their firm.

sure that it would help me that I protected a bottle. It did help me, right edy, is sold at Daley's drug store. Thousands teatify to its value as a cure for from the start; but it took five 50-cent sands testify to its value as a cure for bad I was, as one or two bottles will Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken inter- cure any ordinary case." For sale by

See the sale notices in this issue.

ing: "Good, good! Saved from sin, saved from death, saved from hell, saved fordoes not adjourn for anything trifling. It must be the death of a cabinet minister, or the death of a president, or some mat ter of very great moment. When I find all heaven adjourning its other joys for

this one joy I make up my mind it is of very great importance if heaven can afford to adjourn all other festivities to celebrate this one triumph. Do you wonder that so many of these Christian people have toiled night and day in this work of soul saving, if it is of such vast importance? Do you wonder that Nettleton and Finley and Bishop Asbury and John Wesley and George Whitefield and Paul and angels and Christ and God stripped themselves for the work? Around that one soul circles the mist, the fire, the darkness, the joy, the anthem, the wailing the hallelujah and the woe of God's universe. If the soul is saved, then lip comes to trumpet and tingers to harp and ham mer to bell and "there is joy among the angels of God over that one soul forgiven."

For such a soul I plead. COMMENDING RELIGION. Having found in my own experience that this religion is a comfort and a joy, I stand here to commend it to you. In the days of my infancy I was carried by Christian par ents to the house of God, and consecrated in baptism to the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost; but that did not save me. In after time I was taught to kneel at the Christian family altar with father and mother and brothers and sisters, the most of them now in glory; but that did not save

In after time I read Doddridge's "Rise and Progress" and Baxter's "Call to the Unconverted," and all the religious books around my father's household, but that did not save me. But one day the voice of Christ came into my heart saying, "Repent, repent; believe, believe," and I accepted the offer of mercy, and though no doubt there was more joy in heaven over the conversion of other souls because of their farreaching influence, I verily believe when I gave my heart to God there were some spirits in heaven the gladder for the "There is joy in heaven among the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth." Turn this day to the Lord who bought you. Let this whole audience surrender themselves to Jesus Christ. If for ten, twenty, fifty years you have not prayed, begin now to pray. "Oh," you say, "I can't pray." Can you

not say,"God be merciful to me, a sinner?" "No," you say, "I can't say that." Then can you not look to the throne of mercy? "No," you say, "I can't look up." Can you not then give some signal like that which was given by the lad in the hospital? He was sick and suffering and dying, and wanted speedily to go away from all suffering and pain, and he said to his comrades in the hospital, "It is strange to me that Jesus doesn't see me when he goes through here nights and takes others to himself. He goes through here and he dosen't see me. I must be asleep and he doesn't know I want to go.

"Now, I tell you how I'll arrange it. I'll go to sleep with my hand up, and then when Jesus comes through the hospital by night he will see my hand lifted, and he will know by that I want to go with him.' So it was done. For that night Jesus went through the hospital and took the suffering lad, and the next morning the nurse passing through the wards of the hospital cant plates would outnumber those which are occupied. I once said to you there are against the pillow, and the left hand holdno vacant chairs in heaven, but I recall | ing the elbow of the right arm. Jesus had seen the signal and answered it. Oh, sick soul, wounded soul, dving soul, canst thou not give some signal? Wilt thou not lift one hand or one prayer? God grant that this day there may be joy in heaven among the angels of God over your soul forgiven!

> Music in Heaven. The thrum of harpstrings; silvery osalms; music from the golden wires; the echoes of angel trumpets; the praises of a thousand choirs: harners harning with their harps; the shout of one hundred and forty and four thousands on the summit of the holy mountain with the Lamb; the song of victory sung by the redeemed church; the tuneful voices of the ten thousand times ten thousand and thousand of thousands; the hallelujah choruses like the noise of many waters, and the sound of mighty thunders, in which thanksgiving roars like a fiery flame and gratitude swells like an infinite tempest. These hallelujah choruses are nothing short of a sacred

No element has the place in heaven that the element of music has. In it are sobs and antiphonal responses and full choruses and magnificent jubilates. The angels sing; the nations sing; the white robed multitudes sing; the four living creatures sing; the four and twenty elders sing; outburst of praise follows outburst of praise, rolling east and rolling west, rolling north and rolling south, until the very throne of God trembles and quivers with praise.-Rev. David Gregg.

The Way to Learn. "Well, I think that I would sit there deliberately, as you did, and say I didn't

know a simple thing like that! The idea! It's perfectly ridiculous!" a would be-smart young lady declared to a matron with whom she was on very intimate terms.

"What would you do, my dear?" said the other. "Do?" was the reply. "I would keep still if I didn't know, and not frankly

confess my ignorance. "Well, that's where you and I differ," said the elder lady. "I never expect to see the time when I will be too old or too wise to learn some new thing every day. I think, of all the follies in life, the most foolish folly is to think one should know everything. I have frequently heard elderly men, with a great reputation for wisdom, declare that they often felt humiliated when they realized how little they knew. I assure you, my dear, that if your life is spared until you are threequarters of a century old, you will often find yourself covered with humility at the things you don't know. The wisest way is to learn early in life that no human being can know everything; therefore, never be too silly or too proud to ask what you wish to know, and frankly to confess your ignorance of things with which you are not familiar. No sensible person will respect you less for it, and wise people will value your opinion much more when they find that your utterances are based upon actual knowledge, and that you are not afraid or ashamed to admit that you do not know."

-New York Ledger. Whitened Cape diamonds have been sold lately in Belgium at prices much above their value. A French chemist finds out that on being dipped in a weak aniline so lution the diamonds lose their yellowish tinge and appear a pure white, as the In dian or Brazilian. A bath of nitric acid will show the fraud, or a little alcohol.

New York Journal. Whispers Carried Five Hundred Miles. Whispers can be transmitted 500 miles by the new telephone which, it is said, a telephone company has just perfected .-

New York Journal. Sleep on Left Side. Many people are unable to sleep on papers speak with great interest of Dr.

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interplanetary Signaling At its most favorable oppositions, Mars is still 42,000,000 miles from us, or a hundred and sixty times farther than the moon; while the diameter of its disk is only twenty-five inches. According to Schinpar elli, the smallest objects visible on its surface under the most favorable circumstances-such as a bright spot on a dark ground, or a dark spot on a bright ground -must have a diameter equal to a fiftieth part of that of the planet, or about eighty five miles. This minimum can, it is true. be reduced by using large objectives per mitting stronger magnifying; but even then it is certain that luminous signals, for example, visible from the earth on Mars, must have enormous dimensions.-A Guillemin in Popular Science Monthly

Curious Mrs. Trotter. "But why are you so very anxious to see a whale, Mrs. Trotter?" asked the captain, after the lady had asked for the twentieth time if one was in sight. "I want so much to see one blubber, cap tain. It must be very impressive to see such a large creature cry."—Harper's Ba-

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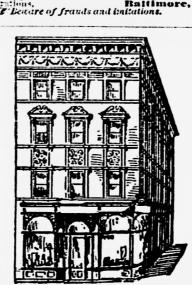
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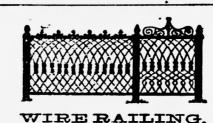
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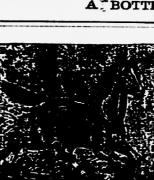
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