The Blessing and the Blight of Work - Body and Soul Upon the Rack - Men and Womon Oppressors - Woman's Highest Adorn-

BROOKLYN, June 3. - Rev. T. De Witt Talmage, who is now on his round the world journey, has chosen as the subject for today "Martyrs of the Needle," the text being Matthew xix, 24, "It is easier for a camel to go through the eve of a needle.

Whether this "eye of the needle" be the small gate at the side of the big gate at the entrance of the wall of the ancient city, as is generally interpreted, or the eye of a needle such as is now handled in sewing a garment I do not say. In either case it would be a tight thing for a camel to go through the eve of a needle. But there are whole caravans of fatigues and hardships going through the eye of the sewing woman's

Very long ago the needle was busy. It was considered honorable for women toil in olden time. Alexander the Great stood in his palace showing garments made by his own mother. The finest tapestries at Bayeux were made by the queen of William the Conqueror. Augustus, the emperor, would not wear any garments except those that were fashioned by some member of his royal family. So let the toiler everywhere be respected!

happened to our first parents was being turned out of Eden after they had done wrong. Adam and Eve, in their perfect state, might have got along without work or only such slight employment as a perfect garden, with no weeds in it, demanded. But as soon as they had sinned the best thing for them was to be turned out where they would have to work. We know what a withering thing it is for a man to have nothingto do. Good old Ashbel Green, at fourscore years, when asked why he kept on working, said, "I do so to keep out of mischief." We see that a man who has a large amount of money to start with has no chance. Of the thoumand prosperous and honorable men that pay his rent. Out with him!" you know, 999 had to work vigorously at the beginning.

try is just as important for a woman's trious shut her up to a few kinds of homes! safety and happiness. The most unhappy women in our communities today are those who have no engagements to call them up in the morning; who, once having risen and breakfasted, lounge through the dull forenoon in slippers down at the heel and with disheveled hair, reading the last novel, and who, having dragged through a wretched forenoon and taken their afternoon eleep, and having spent an hour and a half at their toilet, pick up their cardease and go out to make calls, and who pass their evenings waiting for somebody to come in and break up the monotony, Arabella Stuart never was imprisoned in so dark a dungeon as that,

There is no happiness in an idle woman. It may be with hand, it may be with brain, it may be with foot, but work she must or be wretched forever. The little girls of our families must be started with that idea. The curse of our American society is that our young women are taught that the first, second, third, fourth, tifth, sixth, seventh, tenth, fiftieth, thousandth thing in their life is to get somebody to take care of them. Instead of that the first lesson should be how, under God, they may take care of themselves. The simple fact is that a majority of them do have to take care of themselves, and that, too, after having, through the false notions of their parents, wasted the years in which they ought to have learned how successfully to maintain themselves. We now and here declare the inhumanity, cruelty and outrage of that father and mother who pass their daughters into womerhood, having given them no facility for earning their livelihood. Mme. de Stael said, "It is not these writings that I am proud of, but the fact that I have facility in 10 occupations, in any one of which I could make a livelihood."

A Word to Parents. You say you have a fortune to leave them. O man and woman, have you not learned that, like vultures, like hawks, like eagles, riches have wings and fly away? Though you should be successful in leaving a competency behind you, the trickery of executors may swamp it in a night, or some elders or deacons of our churches may get up a fletitious company and induce your orphans to put their money into it, and

if it be lost prove to them that it was eternally decreed that that was the way they were to lose it, and that it went in the most orthodox and heavenly style, Oh, the damnable schemes that professed Christians will engage in-until God puts his fingers into the collar of the hypocrite's robe and rips it clear down to the bottom! You have no right. because you are well off, to conclude that your children are going to be as well off. A man died, leaving a large fortune. His son fell dead in a Philadelphia grogshop. His old comrades came in and said as they bent over his corpse, "What is the matter with you.

Boggsey?" The surgeon standing over him said: "Hush up! He's dead!" "Ah, he is dead!" they said. "Come, boys, let us go and take a drink in memory of poor Boggsey!" Have you nothing better than me

we your children? If you have not, to send your daughters into the world with empty brain and unskilled hand, you are guilty of assassination, homicide, regicide, infanticide. There are women toiling in our cities for \$3 and \$4 per week who were the daughters of merchant princes. These suffering ones now would be glad to have the crumbs that once fell from their fathers' table. That wornout, broken shoe that she wears is the lineal descendant of the \$12 gaiters in which her mother walked, and that torn and faded calico had ancestry of magnificent brocade that swept Broadway clean without any expense to the street commissioners. Though you live in an elegant residence and fare sumptuously every day, let your daughters feel it is a disgrace to them not to know how to work. I denounce the idea, prevalent in society, that, though our young women may embroider slippers and crochet and make mats for lamps to stand on without disgrace, the ide of doing anything for a livelihood is benerable. It is a womanhood. Man has nothing to an-

she pe for a young

the father toils his life away for her she is an angel. She is not. She knows MEY. DR. TALMAGE SPEAKS FOR WOM- be idle while her mother toils at the gets hungry when she has no food and washtub. It is as honorable to sweep cold when she has no fire. Give her no | earnest Christian. house, make beds or trim hats as it is more flatteries. Give her justice! to twist a watch chain.

which is useful and that which is useless. If worien do that which is of no value, their work is honorable. If they do practical work, it is dishonorable. That our young women may escape the censure of doing dishonorable work I shall particularize. You may knit a tidy for the back of an armchair, but by no means make the money wherewith to buy the chair. You may, with delicate brush, beautify a mantel ornament, but die rather than earn enough to bay a marble mantel. You may learn artistic music until you can squall Italian, but never sing "Ortonville" or "Old Hundred." Do nothing practical if you would in the eyes of refined society preserve your respectability. I scout these finical notions. I tell you no woman. any more than man, has a right to occupy a place in this world unless she pays a rent for it.

In the course of a lifetime you contle, and every day you live breathe 40 by some kind of usefulness pay for all this. Our race was the last thing created-the birds and fishes on the fourth day, the cattle and lizards on the fifth day and man on the sixth day. If geol-The greatest blessing that could have beasts and birds before our race came what the lizards and summer insects more agonizing death.

own nest before it occupies it. The needed medicine not so much as somelark by its morning song earns its break- thing to eat. As she began to revive, ble. The brightest things in all the fast before it eats it. The Pible gives in her delirium she said gaspingly: idler is to starve when it says if he I wish I could get it done! I am so notion she ever had was to make you Idleness ruins the health, and very soon but I must get it done! Eight cents! natur says: "This man has refused to Eight cents!" We found afterward adornment was that of a meek and

give her a chisel. If Rosa Bonheur has be a merchant, let her sell purple. If the Quaker meeting house,

to her apparel and to her home as men her down stairs.

But it is said that her nature is so delitory what toil on earth is more severe, exhausting and tremendous than that some resurrection trumpet might bring | ballot. up these living corpses to the fresh air

Go with me, and I will show you a woman who by hardest toil supports her children, her drunken husband, her old father and mother, pays her house rent, always has wholesome food on the table, and when she can get some neighbor on the Sabbath to come in and take care of her family appears in church with hat and cloak that are far from indicating the toil to which she is subjected.

Trials of Women. Such a woman as that has body and soul enough to fit her for any position. She could stand beside the majority of your salesmen and dispose of more goods. She could go into your wheelwright shops and beat one-half of your workmen at making carriages. We talk about woman as though we had resigned to her all the light work, and ourselves had shouldered the heavier. But the day of judgment, which will reveal the sufferings of the stake and inquisition, will marshal before the throne of God and the hierarchs of heaven the martyrs of

washtub and needle. Now, I say, if there be any preference in occupation, let woman have it God knows her trials are the severest. By her acuter sensitiveness to misfortune, by her hour of anguish, I demand that no one hedge up her pathway to a livelihood. Oh, the meanness, the despicability of men who begrudge a woman the right to work anywhere in any honorable calling!

I go still further and say that women should have equal compensation with men. By what principle of justice is it that women in many of our cities get only two-thirds as much pay as men, and in many cases only half? Here is the gigantic injustice-that for work equally well if not better done woman receives far less compensation than man. Start with the pational government. For a long while women clerks in Washington got \$900 for doing that for which

men received \$1,800. To thousands of young women in our cities today there is only this alternative -starvation or dishonor. Many of the largest mercantile establishments of our cities are accessory to these abominations, and from their large establishments there are scores of souls being pitched off into death, and their employers know it!

The Wall of Womanhood.

Is there a God? Will there be a judgment? I tell you, if God rises up to redress woman's wrongs, many of our large establishments will be swallowed up quicker than a South American earthquake ever took down a city God will catch these oppressors between the two millstones of his wrath and grind them to powder!

I hear from all this land the wail of

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a rarge launty, to be incincient when swer to that wail but flatteries. He says support. It is a shame for a daughter to she is not. She is a human being, who

There are about 50,000 sewing girls in New York and Brooklyn. Across the As far as I can understand, the line darkness of this night I hear their death of respectability lies between that groan. It is not such a cry as comes" from those who are suddenly hurled out of life, but a slow, grinding, horrible wasting away. Gather them before you and look into their faces, pinched, ghastly, hunger struck! Look at their fingers, needle pricked and blood tipped! See that premature stoop in the shoulders! Hear that dry, hacking, merciless cough!

At a large meeting of these women, held in a hall in Philadelphia, grand speeches were delivered, but a needlewoman took the stand, threw aside her faded shawl, and with her shriveled arm hurled a very thunderbolt of elo-

A Pathetic Picture.

Stand at the corner of a street in New York in the very early morning as the women go to their work. Many of them had no breakfast except the crumbs that were left over from the night before or a crust they chew on their way through sume whole harvests and droves of cat- the streets. Here they come-the work- less life and then the tragedy of a ing girls of the city! These engaged in hogsheads of good pure air. You must beadwork, these in flower making, in millinery, enameling, cigar making, bookbinding, labeling, feather picking, print coloring, paper box making, but, most overvorked of all and least compensated, the sewing women. Why ogists are right, the earth was a million do they not take the city cars on their of years in the possession of the insects, way up? They cannot afford the 5 cents. If, concluding to deny herself upon it. In one sense we were inno- something else, she gets into the car, vators. The cattle, the lizards and the give her seat. You want to see how hawks had pre-emption right. The Latimer and Ridley appeared in the fire. of Ages" for any sick papper who asked question is not what we are to do with Look at that woman and behold a more her. As she got older there were days the lizards and summer insects, but horrible martyrdom-a hotter fire, a when she was a little sharp, but for the

One Sabbath night, in the vestibule If we want a place in this world, we of my church, after service a woman better than any one else how to fix must earn it. The partridge makes its fell in convulsions. The doctor said she things. Her every prayer, as God heard an intimation that the first duty of an "Eight cents! Eight cents! Eight cents! "will not work neither shall be eat." tired! I wish I could get some sleep, happy. She dressed well-auntie al-Society is to be reconstructed on the but three of them in a day. Hear it! all gathered lovingly about her, and as subject of woman's toil. A vast majority Three times 8 are 24! Hear it, men you carried her out to rest the Sunday But I am now to tell you that indus- of those who would have woman indus- and women who have comfortable school class almost covered the coffin

partment of merchandise, merchanism, and try to cheat them out of that. The Solomon, "Her price was above rubies." Miss Hosmer has genius for sculpture, gets the garments to work on. When commanded, "I say unto thee, arise!" the work is done, it is sharply inspected, a fondness for delineating animals, let the most insignificant flaws picked out her make "The Horse Fair." If Miss and the wages refused, and sometimes Mitchell will study astronomy, let her the \$1 deposited not given back. The mount the starry ladder. If Lydia will Women's Protective union reports a ease where one of these poor souls, find-Lucretia Mott will preach the gospel, let ing a place where she could get more her thrill with her womanly eloquence wages, resolved to change employers and went to get her pay for work done. The It is said if a woman is given such employer says, "I hear you are going to opportunities she will occupy places leave me?" "Yes," she said, "and I that might be taken by men. I say if have come to get what you owe me." she have more skill and adaptedness for He made no answer. She said, "Are any position than a man has let her have you not going to pay me?" "Yes," he She has as much right to her bread, said, "I will pay you," and he kicked

Women Against Women

How are these evils to be eradicated? eate that she is unfitted for exhausting | What have you to answer, you who sell toil. I ask in the name of all past his- coats and have shoes made and contract for the southern and western markets? What help is there, what panacea, toil of the needle to which for ages what redemption? Some say, "Give she has been subjected? The battering women the ballot." What effect such ram, the sword, the carbine, the battle- ballot might have on other questions I ax, have made no such havoc as the am not here to discuss, but what would needle. I would that these living sepul- be the effect of female suffrage upon chers in which women have for ages woman's wages? I do not believe that daughter, Mrs. Jim Moore, been buried might be opened, and that woman will ever get justice by woman's

Indeed women oppress women as much as men do. Do not women as much as men beat down to the lowest figure the woman who sews for them? Are not women as sharp as men on washerwomen and milliners and mantua makers? If a woman asks \$1 for her work, does not her female employer ask | take her place in her classes again. if she will not take 90 cents? You say, "Only 10 cents difference." But that is sometimes the difference between heaven and hell. Women often have less commiseration for women than men. If virtue, man may forgive-woman never! took the the defeat like gentlemen. Woman will never get justice done her

from woman's ballot. Never will she get it from man's balher. God has more resources than we know of. The flaming sword that hung at Eden's gate when woman was driven out will cleave with its terrible edge her oppressors.

A Source of Strength.

But there is something for our women to do. Let our young people prepare to excel in spheres of work, and they wages. If it be shown that a woman can in a store sell more goods in a year than a man, she will soon be able not only to ask but to demand more wages, skilled and incompetent labor must take what is given. Skilled and competent labor will eventually make its own standard. Admitting that the law of supply and demand regulates these things, I contend that the demand for skilled labor is very great and the sup-

of yourself. If you are after awhile called into another relation, you will all spirit of self reliance, or if you are call- more such mills, we could have as ed to stay as you are you can be happy white and a far better flour than we and self supporting.

Poets are fond of talking about man as an oak and woman the vine that climbs it, but I have seen many a tree fall that not only went down itself, but took all the vines with it. I can tell you of something stronger than an oak for an ivy to climb on, and that is the throne of the great Jehovah. Single to grind his own crop. Let's have or affianced, that woman is strong who some good reform along the line of leans on God and does her best. The needle may break, the factory band may slip, the wages may fail, but over every good woman's head there are spread the organized at Center View on the 2nd two great, gentle, stupendous wings of linst the Almighty.

Many of you will go single handed through life, and you will have to the cures by Hood's Sarsanasinchoose between two characters. Young that they are woman. I am sure you will turn your

back upon the useless, giggling, painted nonentity which society ignominiously acknowledges to be a woman and ask stutter. God to make you a humble, active,

What will become of this godless dis-

ciple of fashion? What an insult to her sex! Her manners are an outrage upon decency. She is more thoughtful of the attitude she strikes upon the carpet than how she will look in the judgment, more worried about her freckles than her sins, more interested in her bonnet strings than in her redemption. Her apparel is the poorest part of a Christian woman, however magnificently dressed. and no one has so much right to dress well as a Christian. Not so with the godless disciple of fashion. Take her robes, and you take everything. Death will come down on her some day, and rub the bistre off her eyelids, and the rouge off her cheeks, and with two quence, speaking out the horrors of her rough, bony hands scatter spangles and glass beads and rings and ribbons and lace and brooches and buckles and sashes and frisettes and golden clasps.

The dying actress whose life had been vicious said: "The scene closes. Draw the curtain." Generally the tragedy comes first and the farce afterward, but in her life it was first the farce of a usewretched eternity.

A Mother In Israel.

Compare the life and death of such a one with that of some Christian aunt that was once a blessing to your household. I do not know that she was ever offered a hand in marriage. She lived single, that untrammeled she might be everybody's blessing. Whenever the sick were to be visited or the poor to be provided with bread, she went with a blessing. She could pray or sing "Rock most part auntie was a sunbeam-just the one for Christmas eve. She knew it, was full of everybody who had trouhouse dropped from her fingers. She had peculiar notions, but the grandest ways dressed well-but her highest that she was making garments at 8 quiet spirit, which in the sight of God cents apiece, and that she could make is of great price. When she died, you

with japonicas, and the poor people Some of the worst villains of the city stood at the end of the alley, with their that a woman has a right to do anything are the employers of these women. aprons to their eyes, sobbing bitterly, Careful attention to collections she can do well. There should be no de- They beat them down to the last penny and the man of the world said, with art or science barred against her. If woman must deposit \$1 or \$2 before she and Jesus, as unto the maiden in Judaea,

Works Always.

The importuning of beggars is becoming an unmitigated nuisance. At any hour of the night or early morning one is not exempt from this affliction. One of these gentry tackled a benevolent-looking woman on Main street. As she handed ten cents to him from a well-filled pocketbook she remarked: "You are the fifth man who has 'braced' me within two enough, ma'am, to be embraced," was the ready rejoinder, and the benevolent-looking old lady smiled as she walked away. Evidently gallantry is not one of the lost arts.

Algood News Notes.

(Correspondence of THE LEDGER. | Algood, S. C., June 4.-Miss Roxana Gardener, who has been at Glendale for some time, is at home now. Mrs. H. Parris is visiting her

Mrs. Fowler, of Greenville, is paying her daughter, Mrs. Wm. Gardner, a

We are glad to see Miss Ophelia Young, who was sick last week, in the scoolroom again. Also glad to know that Nannie Harris is able to

The Corinth nine met a nine, which called itself Cowpens, and had a match game of ball. The game was played near Mr. A. S. Waters'. Cora woman steps aside from the path of inth gained the victory, but Cowpens

Mr. Lee Smith doesn't intend that his neighbors who have been buying lot. How, then? God will rise up for organs, etc., shall get ahead of him along the music line. He received last week, not an organ, but an Etc.

> Music in the house, music in the Music at Mr. Smith's by a baby's

Mr. and Mrs Smith, of course will be able after awhile to get larger think a great deal of their musical

Farmers who have wheat should remember that Mr. A. S. Walters, and to demand them successfully. Un- by the roller process, can make as large, if not a larger quantity from the same wheat, and a better quality of flour than any other mill. Try him with a load of wheat. But you say, "I'm not making much wheat this year." If you are not making J. G. Spencer, Start with the idea that work is hon- much, you want as much as good orable and that you can do some one flour out of it as you can get, don't thing better than any one else. Resolve you? Mr. Walters can make it. If that, God helping, you will take care farmer would prepare for it and raise more wheat than they do, thus the better be qualified for it by your encourage men to invest money in

> buy. But as it is little preparation is made, not much wheat so ved, con-consulty not much made. So there is squently not much made. So there is little encourage for a man to put in a good mill, unless he raises a great deal of wheat himself and puts it up Prompf attention given to the col- J. E.

closing contracts. A Reform Democratic Club was

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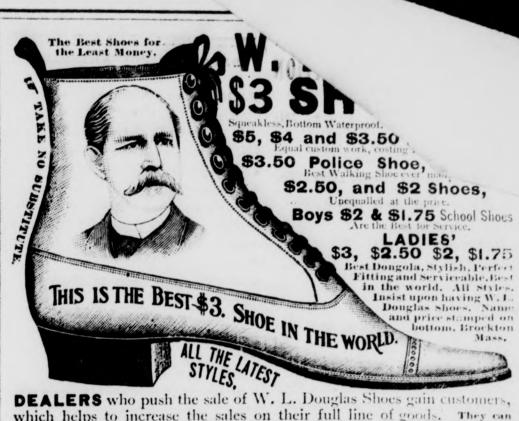
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