AN EULOGISTIC DISCOURSE

The Laudatory Sayings of Rev. Talmage.

He Compares Ancient Politics With the Crook-dness of Modern Times—The Ballot-Box Is Brought Forth in a Terrible Description as to the Fraud Votes of the Government of Old, as Well as Those of the Present Day.

BROOKLYN, November 4.—At the Tabernacle this morning the Rev. T. DeWitt Talmage, D. D., expounded some passages of Scripture about ancient politics. He gave out the hymn:

Arm of the Lord, awake, awake,
Thine own strength, the nations shake.

The doctor's text was: "Two cubits and a half was the length of it, and a cubit and a half the breadth of it, and a cubit and a half the height of it."—Exodus 37: 1. He said:

Look at it—the sacred chest of the ancients. It was about five feet long, three feet wide, and three feet high. It was within and out of pure gold. On the top of it stood two angels facing each other with outspread wings. In that sacred box was the law, and there were in it a great many precious stones. With that box west the fate of the nation. Carried in front of it—behind the waters of the Jordan parted. Divinely charged, costly, precious, mompentous box. No unholy hands might lay hold of it. It was called the ark of the covenant. But you will understand it was a box, the most precious boy of the ages. Where is it now? Gone forever. Not a piece of church or museum of the world has a fragment of it.

But is not this nation God's chosen people? Have we not passed through the Red Sea? Have we not been led with a pillar of fire by night? Has this nation not the ark of the covenant? Yes, the ballot box, the sacred chest of the nation, the ark of the American covenant.

In it is the law, in it is the divine and the human will, as it is one of the instruments of that nation. It is one of the corner-stones of our government. It is called the ark of the constitution. In it is our national safety. Tell me what will be the fate of the American ballot-box, the ark of the American covenant, and I will tell you what will be the fate of this nation. Give the people once a year or once in four years an opportunity to express their patriotic sentiments, and you practically avoid insurrection and revolution.

Either give them the ballot or they will take the sword. Without the ballot-box there can be no free republican institutions. Milton visiting in Italy noticed that on the sides of Vesuvius gardeners and farmers were at work while the volcano was in eruption, and he asked them if they were safe. "Yes," said the farmers and gardeners, "it is safe; all the danger is before the eruption; then comes earthquake and terror, just just as soon as the earthquake begins to pour fourth lava we all feel at rest." It is the suppression of political sentiment, the suppression of public opinion, that makes mortal earthquake and national earthquake. Let public opinion pour forth, and there is quiet satisfaction, and that is peace, and that gives permanence to good government. And yet, though the ballot-box is the sacred chest and the ark of the American covenant you know as well as I know it has been antagonized and has been proven this morning in God's name and as a Christian patriot to set before you these seven sense of the seven enemies of this sacred chest, the ark of the American covenant, the ballot-box.

First I remark, ignorance is a mighty foe. Other things never equal for one moment ignorance a man has the better he is qualified to exercise the right of suffrage. If a man has been ten, fifteen, twenty, thirty years studying American institutions, you have cause to ask all the great questions about the tariff and home rule and all the educational questions, and everything in American politics and you are well acquainted with. You consider yourself competent to cast a vote in November and you are competent. You will take your position in the line of electors, you will wait for your turn to come, the judge of electors will announce your name, your will cast your vote and pass on. Well done.

But right behind you there will come a man who cannot spell the name of governor, senator, or attorney or mayor. He cannot write, or if he can write it he cannot read it. It is a personal pronoun. He could not tell on which side of the Allegheny Mountains Ohio is. Educated in many lorty, educated horses know more than he. He will cast his vote and will balance your vote. His ignorance is as mighty as your intelligence. That is not right. All men of fair mind will acknowledge that that is not right. Until a man can read the Declaration of Independence and the constitution of the United States, and calculate the interest on the American debt, and know the difference between a republican form of government and an autocracy or a despotism, he is unfit to exercise the right of suffrage at any ballot-box between Key West and Alaska.

In 1872, in England, there were 2,600,000 citizens who ought to have been in jail. There were only 1,833,000, in other words about fifty per cent. and of the 50 per cent not more than five per cent. got anything worthy the name of an education. Now, take that fore per cent. ignorance and add it to American ignorance, and there will be a tremendous responsible and thousands of people who are no more qualified to exercise the right of suffrage than a Hottentot or a Bushman. How are these things to be corrected? By laws of compulsory education and well executed. I wish for a law which, after giving fair warning for a few years, shall make ignorance a crime. There is no excuse for ignorance on these subjects in this land, where the common schools make knowledge as free as the fresh air of heaven. I would have a board of examination seated beside the officers of registration and let them decide whether the man who come up to vote have any capacity to be a monarchs in a land where we are all monarchs. One of the most awful foes to the American ballot-box to-day is popular ignorance. Educate the people, give them an opportunity to know and understand what they do, if they will not take the education, deny them the vote.

Another powerful enemy of this sacred chest, the ark of the American covenant, the ballot-box, is sectarian voting. In 1880, in Brooklyn there were a thousand names recorded of persons who had no residence here, and if there were a thousand attempted fraudulent votes in the best city on the continent, what must be expected in cities not so fortunate? What a grand thing is the law of registration! Without it elections in this country would be a farce. There must be a scrutiny of the names. The law must have a thousand trial for the back of repeaters. Something more than slight fine and short imprisonment. It is an attempt at the assassination of the republic, when a man attempts to put in a spurious vote. In olden times when men laid unholy hands on the ark of the covenant they were struck down dead. Witness Uzah. And when men attempt to put unholy hands on the American ballot-box, the ark of the American covenant, they deserve extraordination.

Another powerful foe of this sacred chest is intimidation.

Corporations sometimes demand that their employes vote in this and that way. It is skillfully done. It is not positively in so many words demanded, but the employe understands he will be frozen out of the establishment if he does not vote as the firm do. So you can go into villages where there are establishments with hundreds and hundreds of employes and having found out the politics of the head men in the factory, you can tell which way the election is going. Now, that is damnable. If in any precinct in the United States a man cannot vote as he pleases, there is something awfully wrong.

How do you treat that employe who votes differently from what you do? Oh, you say you do not interfere with his right of suffrage. But you call him into your private office, and you find fault with him, and after a while you begin to tell him there is an uncle, or an aunt, or a brother, or a nephew that must have that position. You do not say it is because he voted this way or that way, but you know and God knows it is. If that man has given to you in hard work an equivalent for the wages you pay him, you have no right to ask anything else of him. He sold you his work; he did not sell you his political or religious principles. But you know as well as I do there is sometimes that sacred chest, the ark of the American covenant, a shadow corporate or monopolistic.

I do not wonder at the vehemence of Lord Chief Justice Holt, of England, when he said: "Let who people rule." Interference with a man's vote is in behalf of this or that party, or in favor of this or that man or against the law comes before us. I will charge the jury to make him pay not only for it, but for it in the criminal courts, or capitalists. Every man voting in his own way—God and his own conscience the only dictation.

Another powerful foe of that sacred chest, the ark of the American covenant, the ballot-box, is bribery.

You know somethior of the hundreds of thousands of dollars that were expended in Indiana in 1880. You know somethior of the vast sums of money expended in Brooklyn and New York on other years and on occasions. Bribery is one of the disgraces of this country. And there will be more money used in bribery this Autumn's election than in any previous election. It is often the case that a man is nominated for office with reference to his capacity to provide money for the elections or with reference to the capacity to command money from others. You know the names of men who have at different times gone into the city with special care of the elections, and offer buying their way all through. I tell you no sewer in Pandemonium's heart has such depths and egrals with it.

Very often it is not money that bribes, but it is men. "You make me President and I'll make you a cabinet officer; you make me Governor and I'll make you Senator; you make me Mayor and I'll put you on the ticket for Congress; you give me position and I'll give you position." That is the form of bribe more and often in these days. Sometimes I do not say it is in our city, but you know across the land and again through all the land there have been bribery kicks both ways. It kicks the man that offers it and the man that takes it. Bribery! to-day you will admit is the one of the most vilest foes of the American ballot-box.

Another great enemy of, that sacred chest is defamation of character. Can you find in the papers the newspapers—two men are in running for office which is the best? How can we in the autumnal elections the good man is denounced and the bad man applauded and that you can come anywhere to no just opinion as to who is the best man, and the next three hundreds and thousands of electors who go up, to vote,so utterly befogged they know not what they do. Is not that a frightful influence to be brought upon the ballot-box of this country? It has been a terrible power since the foundation of this government. Defamation of character.

Thomas Paine wrote Washington a letter, and publishes it saying: "Treacherous in all private friendship and a hypocrite in public morals, the world will be puzzled to know whether we had better call you an apostate or an imposter, and whether you have joined good morals, or never had any." That is Thomas Paine's opinion of George Washington.

John Quincy Adams declared that he was ashamed to read some of the scandals and the anathemas hilleted upon him by the fact that his father, John Adams, had gone through the same process, and John Quincy Adams declared he really thought that at every election there were men who were their entire time to manufacturing falsehoods and the use of time to manufacturing falsehoods and the use of time to manufacturing falsehoods and the use of