Talmage's Sermon.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5.—In this Dr. Talmage's first discourse for the new year he speaks words of encouragement to all the timid and doubting. The text is Exodus xii, 2, "This month shall be unto you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year to you."

The last month of the old year has passed out of sight, and the first month of the new year has arrived. The midnight gate last Wednesday opened, and January entered. She deserves a better name, for she is called after Janus, the heathen deity who, they supposed, presided over doors and so might be expected to preside at the opening of the year. This month was of old called the wolf month because, through the severity of its weather, the hungry wolves came down seeking food and devouring human life. In the missals of the middle ages January was represented as attired in white, suggestive of the snow, and blowing the fingers, as though suffering from the cold, and having a bundle of wood under the arm, suggestive of the warmth that must be kindled.

Yes, January is the open door of the year, and through that door will come what long processions, some of them bearing palm leaves and some myrtle, others with garlands of wheat and others with cypress and mistletoe. They are coming, and nothing can keep them back—the events of a twelvemonth. It will, I think, be one of the greatest years of all time. It will abound with blessing and disaster. National and international controversies of momentous import will be settled. Year of coronation and dethronement, year that will settle Cuban and Porto Rican and Philippine and South African and Chinese destinies. The tamest year for many a decade has dug its millions of graves and reared its millions of marriage altars.

We can expect greater events in this year than ever before, for the world's population has so vastly increased there are so many more than in any other year to laugh and weep and triumph and perish. The mightier wheels of mechanism have such wider sweep. The fires are kindled in furnaces not seven times but seventy times heated. The velocities whirling through the air and sailing the seas and tunneling the mountains will make unprecedented demonstration. Would to God that before the new opening year has closed the earth might cease to tremble with the last cannonade and the heavens cease to be lighted up with any more conflagration of homesteads and the foundries that make swords be turned into blacksmith shops for making plowshares.

Grasp Present Opportunities.

The front door of a stupendous year has opened. Before many of you there will be twelve months of opportunity for making the world better or worse, happier or more miserable. Let us pray that it may be a year that will indicate the speedy redemption of the hemisphere. Would to God that this might be the year in which the three great instruments now chiefly used for secular purposes might be put to their mightiest use in the world's evangelization—the telegraph, the telephone, the phonograph! Electricity has such potent tongue, such strong arm, such swift wing, such lightning foot, that it occurs to me that it may be the angel that St. John saw and heard in apocalyptic vision when he started back and cried out, "I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth and to every nation and kindred and tongue and people'" They were tongues of fire that sat on the heads of the disciples at the Pentecost, and why not the world called to God by tongue of electric fire? Prepare your batteries and make ready to put upon the wires the world wide message of "whosoever will."

Furthermore, this month of January has the greatest height and depth of cold. The rivers are bound in crystal chains. The fountains that made highest leap in the summer parks now toss not one jet, for every drop would be a frozen tear. The sleds craunch through the hard snow. Warmest attire the wardrobe can afford is put on that we may defend ourselves against the fury of the elements. Hardest of all the months for the poor, let it be the season of greatest generosity on the part of the prosperous. How much a sentle of coal or a pair of shoes or a coat or a shawl may do in assuagement of suffering between the 1st of January and the 1st of February God only knows. Seated by our warm registers or wrapped in furs which make us independent of the cutting January blast, let us not forget the fireless hearth and the thin garments and the hacking cough and the rheumatic twinge of those who through destitution find life in winter an agony. Suppose each one of us take under charge one poverty stricken household or one disabled man or one invalided woman. On our way home from such a charity, though the wind may be howling and the night tempestuous, I should not wonder if we could hear a voice that was heard on Galilee and at the gates of Nain and by the pool of Bethesda saying, "Inasmuch as ye did it to them, ye did it to me."

Victories of the Frost.

Oh, the might of the cold! The arctic and antarctic invading the temperate zone! The victories of the frost—as when the Thames in 1205 became firm as any bridge and the inhabitants crossed and recrossed on the ice and booths and places of temporary amusement were built on the hardened surface; as when many years ago New York harbor was paved with ice so that the people passed on foot to the adjoining islands. But the full story of the cold will never be known. The lips which would have told it were frozen and the fingers that would have written it were benumbed. Only here and there a fact appears. In 1691 the cold was so terrific that the wolves entered Vienna. In 1468 it was so cold that wine was cut with hatchets and distributed among the soldiers. In 1234 a whole forest was killed by the cold at Ravenna. In 763 the Black sea was frozen over. As we go further back the frosts are mightier, but as we come further down the frosts lessen. The worst severities have been halted, and the snows have lost their depths, and the thermometers announce less terrific falls of temperature, and the time will come when the year will be one long summer of foliage and bloom. While the world's moral condition will be reformed, the worst climates will be corrected. You could not have a millennium with a January blast possible.

Behold, also, as it is possible in no other month of the year, the wondrous anatomy of the trees in January, the leaves of the last year all gone and not so much as a bud of a new botanical wardrobe appearing, the trees standing with arms stretched toward heaven, one of the greatest evidences of the wisdom and the power of the Creator. The leaves appear only once and then die, but these great arms are stretched up toward heaven in silent prayer for scores of years, now mailed with ice, now robed in snow or bowing to the God of the tempests as he passes in the midnight hurricane. In July the trees stand glorifying the earth; in January they stand defying the winter. Under the same tree the child plays with his toy and, growing up to manhood, sits under it in sentimental or philosophic mood and, having passed on to old age, rests himself under its shade. In these January days the trees seem to say: "The leaves that rustled their music in the last summer are dead and gone, but the leaves that will adorn this uncovered brow and these bare arms shall have as much beauty and glory as their predecessors. Only wait. There are beautiful and lovely things to come in my tree life, as there are beautiful and lovely things to come in your life, O human spectator." Oh, the tree! Only the Almighty and the Infinite could have made one. Gothic architecture was suggested by it. But for the arch of its bough and the pointing of its branches the St. Chapelle of Paris and other specimens of Gothic arch would never have been lifted. No wonder the world has taken from it many styles of suggestiveness—the laurel for the victor, the willow for the sorrowing, the aspen for the trembling, the cypress for the burial! But, unlike ourselves, they cannot change their place and so stand watching all that passes. Some of them are solemn monuments of the centuries. Thank God for trees, their beauty, their shelter, their interlacing branches—not only for the trees in June time coronation, but in January privation of everything but graceful structure! Let the iconoclastic ax not be lifted against them. "Woodman, spare that tree."

The Increasing Daylight.

Behold also in this January month the increasing daylight. Last month the sun went down at 4:30, but in this month the days are getting longer. The sunrise and the sunset are farther apart. Sunlight instead of artificial light, and there is for our dear old battered earth growing light. "The dayspring from on high hath visited us." We shall have more light for the home, more light for the church, more light for the nation, more light for the world—light of intelligence, light of comfort, light of rescue, light of evangelization, light from the face of God, light from the throne. But, you say, the light increases so slowly, each day of this January only one minute longer than its predecessor, the sun setting the 1st day of January at 4 o'clock and 43 minutes, the sun setting the 2d day of January at 4 o'clock and 44 minutes, the 3d day of this month the sun setting at 4 o'clock and 45 minutes, the 4th day of January the sun setting at 4 o'clock and 46 minutes. This evening it will set at 4 o'clock and 47 minutes. The day enlarges very little, and the reign of sunlight is not much increased, but do not despise the minute of increasing light each day of this January, and do not despise the fact that more light is coming for the church and the world, though it come slowly. As we are now in this season gradually going toward the longest day of next summer, so our world is moving forward toward the long day of emancipation and Christly dominion. It may now in the state and the church and the world be January cold, but we are on the way, to July harvests and September orchards.

Do not read your almanac backward. Do not go out and ask the trees hung with icicles by January storm whether they will ever again blossom in May and leaf in June. We are moving toward the world's redemption. The frozen tears will melt, the river of gladness will resume its flow, the crocus will come up at the edge of the snowbank, the morning star will open the door for the day, and the armies of the world will "ground arms" all around the world. The January of frost will be abolished, and the balm and radiance of a divine atmosphere will fill the nations. If you do not see it and hear it for yourself, I think at the utmost your grandchildren will see and hear it. The heavens will take part in the conflict between righteousness and sin, and that will settle it, and settle it aright, and settle it forever.

In this very month of January, 1643, two months after a great battle had been fought between the army of the king and the army of parliament, shepherds and travelers between 12 and 1 o'clock at night heard the battle repeated in the skies—the sound of drums, the clash of arms, the groans of dying men and then the withdrawal of the scene into complete silence. These shepherds and travelers repeated in the neighboring towns what they heard, and large numbers of people, expecting that all was a deception, went out on the following night, and they heard the same uproar and tumult in the heavens—the two armies in battle. The king, hearing of this seeming combat in the heavens, sent embassadors to inquire into the mystery. In the night they also heard the conflict and came back to the king and took solemn oath as to this mysterious occurrence.

Whether those shepherds and travelers and embassadors of the king were in delusion I cannot say, but this I know—that the forces of God and the forces of Satan are now in combat, the heavens as well as the earth in struggle as to who shall win this world for blessedness or woe, and, as the armies of God are mightier than the armies diabolic, we know who will triumph, and we have a right to shout the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. The King of Kings, the Lord of Hosts, the God of Joshua and Havelock, leads in the conflict. I have no fear about the tremendous issue. My only fear is that we will not be found in the ranks and fully armed to do our part in this campaign of the eternities.

Again, I remark that the month of January has seen many of the most stupendous events in the world's history and a rocking of cradles and the digging of graves that have affected nations. In this month American independence was declared, followed by Lexington and Bunker Hill and Monmouth and Valley Forge and Yorktown. January saw the proclamation that abolished American slavery. Though at the time there were two mighty opinions and they were exactly opposed—those who liked the document and those who disliked it—there is but one opinion now, and if it were put to vote in all the states of the south, "Shall slavery be reinstated?" there would be an overwhelming vote of "No!" The pen with which the document was signed and the inkstand that contained the ink are relics as sacred and valuable as the original Declaration of Independence, with all its erasures and interlineations. The institution which for seventy or eighty years kept the nation in angry controversy has disappeared, and nothing is left to fight about. The north and the south today are in as complete accord as ever were flute and cornet in the same orchestra. The north has built its factories on the banks of the Chattahoochee and the Roanoke, and the south has sent many of its ablest attorneys into our northern courthouses, its most skillful physicians into our sickrooms, its wisest bankers into our exchanges, its most consecrated ministers into our pulpits—all this the result of the proclamation of Jan. 1, 1863.

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Our business for the old year having exceeded all previous years, and our holiday trade having far surpassed our fondest expectations, we desire to express our deepest gratification to our many customers We close the Old Year with satisfaction, and enter upon the duties of the

GLAD NEW YEAR!

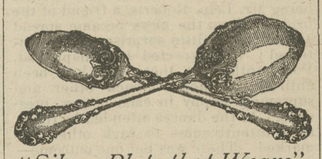
with a determination to faithfully serve our patrons, and to lend an attentive ear to their slightest wishes.

Having replenished our depleted holiday stock with a large variety of GROCERIES, PROVISIONS, FRUITS, CANDIES, MEATS, TOBACCO ETC., We are now ready to serve our patrons, old and new, trusting you will call and examine our display, we are

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We are not advertising a circus nor would have you believe we are selling you 50-cent articles for 25 cents, or as shirts, the 50-cent kind for 39 cents, but we will sell you goods at a small margin and give you the worth of your money.

We are also selling Oak and Hemlock Tanned Sole Leather and Half Soles.

WANTED—Lard, Meat, Butter, Eggs and Corn. You know Crow likes corn. We would be pleased to see you; Corner Kent and High Streets, Up-Town.

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1.99 buys the famous 9-piece Chamber Sets.
3.50 buys a nice imported English Decorated Sets.
1.25 buys a nice Decorated Water Set, set tumblers, Pitcher and tray.
1.50 buys a nice Im. Gold Band Water Set, set tumblers, Pitcher and tray.
11.50 buys a fide Decorated Tea and Dinner Set with 105 pieces.
5.50 buys a fine Decorated Tea set with 56 pieces.
17.50 buys a nice English Decorated Tea and Dinner Set of 105 pieces.
1 50 buys a nice Hall Lamp, self-adjusting.
3.00 buys a nice Library Lamp, self-adjusting.
Lamps, Bric-a-Brac, Chinaware in abundance for the holidays.

Handkerchiefs, Gloves, Etc.

65c per doz. buys a fine Hemstitched Ladies' Handkerchief.
75c & 1.00 doz. buys an Embroidered Ladies' Handkerchief.
25 each buys fine Embroidered Ladies' Handkerchief, new design.
Our stock of this line of goods cannot be excelled on the market.

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We have a nice line Ebony Handles, Ivory Handles and other styles in silks and other cloths.
50c buys a fairly good Umbrella.

Gloves.

Kid, Fur and other kinds for Gents and Ladies.

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2.50 buys an exquisite Marsalles (white) spread.
1 00 buys special bargain (white) spread.
50c buys 10-4 White Blanket.
Then we have fine 11 and 12-4 White Blankets.

Pocket Books, Hosiery, Etc.

10c buys the best 10c Black Hose for Misses ever sold, others ask 15c per pair for them.

Table Linens & Napkins.

60c buys 1 Doz. Napkins Pure Linen.
25c buys Good Values in Bleeched and Unbleeched Table Linen.
10c buys Best Values Ever Shown in All Pure Linen 74 inches wide.
Turkey Red Table Linen from 25c up.

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$1.25 buys a Gents fine Vici Kid Xmas Slipper.
Nice Line Shoes for Men, Women and Children.

Carpet, Oil Cloth & Linolium.

58c buys the best All Wool Ingrains on the Market.
Art Squares at same price per yard.
25c buys a Good Rag Carpet.
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12½c buys a Good Matting.
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New Stock Large Assortment.

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