

a price over to be surrendered. Our way to drive out false religion is to preach the true religion.

If all this is dependent upon the acknowledgment that "Mormonism" has any "antagonism" toward the Constitution of the United States, we are afraid that it will take a long time to fulfil his rosy predictions. But he probably did not mean exactly what he said on that point, and we are willing to let it go in view of the liberality of his sentiments concerning religious liberty, which every true American will endorse and which exhibit even a greater change of heart in the Brooklyn pulpit than he perceives in "Mormonism."

That is a far better way than the thunder of artillery even with a "false religion." We are willing to compare our creed with his at any time. But no matter how false one religion may appear to the devotees of another, cannon and ball, gunpowder and bloodshed are not the weapons of true Christianity to bring against it, nor are they compatible with the sentiments of some people in the nineteenth century.

The lecturer, after dealing with "Mormonism," passed on to Mohammedanism and said:

"The harbor of Joppa on the Mediterranean sea is kept in the same dangerous condition as it was hundreds of years ago. Why? Because Mohammedanism does not want vessels to land there. When, on December 1, 1889, we entered that harbor we floated in among the rocks which have wrecked and drowned more people than any rocks in any harbor of the round world. Mohammedanism would rather have the boats wrecked than to have them safely landed."

We do not believe that either Mohammedanism or its advocates can be fairly charged with any such sentiments. The lecturer desires above all things to air his wonderful travels and flaunt an appearance of bravery and before his followers in Brooklyn. And he is not particular whether it is the east or the west, "Mormonism" or Mohammedanism which he misrepresents, so that he can make it a topic for sensational discourses and startling announcements. If Mohammedans did not want vessels to land in certain places they could very easily prevent them. And perhaps if they had known that so important a personage as De Witt Talmage wanted to put in at Joppa without "floating in among the rocks," they would have expended the vast amounts necessary to remove those obstructions so that he might have no excuse for saying that they would rather have him wrecked than land safely.

But Mr. Talmage predicts a wonderful change. It is to be brought about by modern inventions. He says, "The children of darkness are terrified with the sound of a steam whistle." By this he leaves the inference that he means both "Mormons" and Mohammedans, and railroads and telegraphs he thinks will be the means of reforming them. Fear seems still to be a part of his gospel policy after all. Force also. He says:

"The Bible, which is now a flat page, will be put on phonographic cylinder, and where the eye refuses to read the ear will be compelled to listen. Hail, then, all these modern inventions and appliances. False religions cannot bear the sight or the sound of them."

First terrify them with the sound of the steam whistle, then grind out and thunder into them the Bible by monster phonograph and compel them to hear it, whether they will or no. Funny, isn't it, for a Christian preacher? But then it is only Talmageian oratory and doesn't mean anything but sound to tickle the itching ears of the fashionable Brooklynites.

He tells of what the railroads have done for Salt Lake and Ogden by way of reforming these cities. And this, he connects with the notion that "false religions"—one of which he considers "Mormonism to be," cannot bear the sight or the sound" of railroads, telegraphs, the phonograph, etc. Well, some one should inform the superficial lecturer that the "Mormons" helped to build the first railroad across the continent; that they have built a number of other railroads in Utah; that they built the first telegraph line here; that they introduced the first phonograph in this city; that they patronize the telephone, the electric light and all other modern improvements; and therefore his argument amounts to nothing or rather flies back in his teeth, when he calls "Mormonism" a "false religion."

But it is useless to follow him further. Mr. Talmage is a florid and fervid orator, somewhat spasmodic in manner and sensational in matter. He draws large crowds as a circus will do. But he is very superficial in his investigations and reckless in his statements, often utterly unreliable as to facts and entirely unsafe in his deductions. But we are pleased to see that he is somewhat changed in his views as to the treatment of what he considers false religions, and hope that he will continue to improve so that he may one day make some approach to the character of a Christian.

THE GREAT BEAR AND THE BRITISH LION.

THE present phase of the eastern question is strikingly interesting to those who take pleasure in noting the attitude of the great nations of Europe toward each other. Russia continues to pursue the policy of encroachment in the direction of British interests recently opened by a violation on the part of the Czar of the treaty of 1878, prohibiting the passage of ships of war through the Dardanelles. Lord Salisbury gave Russia to understand that if Turkey surrendered her control of the important strait, England would promptly act to prevent the usurpation of the prerogative by the Czar. This, for the time being, checked Muscovite operations at that point. Russia is not yet ready to begin war, not having yet completed her negotiations for a loan with French and German bankers combined.

The temporary check resulting from the resolute attitude of the British government only relates to Russian operations at one point. Russia now, taking the dispatches as correct, makes demonstrations in other quarters, equally vital to the weal of England. An understanding is said to have been reached with Greece under which, in certain eventualities, the fleet of that country would be placed at the disposal of the Czar in the Archipelago. Color is

given to the report by the fact that the royal families of the two countries are related and the two peoples are united by a common religion. Besides, Greece considers herself the rightful proprietor of the Island of Cyprus, now in possession of Great Britain.

It is also stated that a "commercial treaty" has been formed between Russia and Persia of so close a nature "that a foreign ambassadorship of the two countries is to be combined in one representative. If this alliance be placed with the recent military demonstration on the Afghan frontier it assumes conspicuous importance. Herat, in Afghanistan, has been called the "gate to India;" hence Great Britain must protect it against invasion by Russia at all hazards. It can be readily reached from the Persian border. It will be seen from this how menacing to England a Russo-Persian treaty would be to England.

The points embodied in the newer phases of Russian policy practically almost surround Turkey, which is necessarily the great obstacle in the way of the Muscovite advances. Greece lies on the south of European Turkey, Persia on the east and Russia on the north of Turkey in Asia. Present operations represent a diplomatic game of chess. The manipulator who happens to get beaten at this phase of the contest is liable to resort to methods more serious.

If the Czar contemplates warlike eventualities he will anxiously await the approaching political struggle in Great Britain. Should the result be a victory for the Liberal party and the selection of Gladstone for the premiership, Russia would have a comparatively open field. The "Grand Old man" as he has been called, has announced that, in the event of his becoming the head of the government, he would evacuate Egypt. Such a step looks like sheer foolishness under existing circumstances. It would, in consequence of the attitude of Russia, necessitate the closing of the Suez canal, or leaving British India exposed to great danger? The closing of the famous artificial water-way would have a disastrous effect upon British commerce, while to leave it open and practically unprotected would be akin to madness. What Great Britain needs now, and what will evidently be necessary for some time, is a government with a "spirited foreign policy," of the Beaconsfield stamp. Salisbury belongs to the school of statesmen who believe in political promptitude and resolution in connection with foreign relations. Gladstone is noted for a lack of determination in situations out of which war is liable to grow. He is just the man that the Czar would delight to see made premier of England. We are of opinion that such an event would be but little short of a calamity for Great Britain.

England is the lion in the way of the attainment of Russian aims and ambitions. There is a tradition to the effect that when the great bear of the north should put his paw on the British lion, the time for the development of what Dr. Cummings, of London, calls the "coming struggle" in Europe would be close at hand. Whether there be anything in the anticipation or not, the attitude of the two national emblematic animals is