

**Saturday Night Talks**  
By F. E. DAVISON  
Rutland, Vt.

**VILLAGE HAS STOOD STILL**

Population Has Not Varied—One Man in Every Forty-five a Colonel.

Bloomington, Ill.—Paradise, Coles County, a village of two hundred and fifty inhabitants, has many distinctions, chiefest of which is the fact that in proportion to its population it furnished more colonels to the Federal armies during the civil war than any other place, no less than six being credited to the village.

One of these, Col. True, was later a Brigadier-General. The others were Col. R. H. McFadden, who commanded the Fifty-third Illinois; Col. Monroe, of the One Hundred and Thirty-third Illinois, who fell during one of the skirmishes with Wheeler; Col. Mitchell, who afterward commanded the same regiment, and Col. Buckner, who commanded the Seventy-eighth Illinois. In addition, Col. Cofer, who resided at Paradise when the war broke out, but left there to take command of one of the Kentucky regiments in the Confederate army, is numbered among the brave soldiers contributed by the Coles County village. The remarkable feature of this contribution to the commissioned forces of the armies is the fact that Paradise is, as stated, a village of but two hundred and fifty souls, and it has not increased in population since the war.

"Paradise is without railroad communication with the outside world, and can point to a stage line as its only means of passenger transportation. Indeed it is the same village to-day as it was when the news came that Fort Sumpter had been fired upon. Grown a trifle older and a trifle more sleepy as the years have rolled by, giving the business which once made it a thriving centre to the towns adjacent, and more favored by the gods and the railroads, the little town goes on its way as quietly as it did a half century ago.

**BURGLAR TICKLED HER FOOT.**

Crackman's Love of Joking Robbed Him of His Booty.

Youngstown, O.—Five pretty pink tootsies peeping out from 'neath the coverlets as Mrs. John Rouan, tossed in her sleep caught the eye of a bold burglar as he was tiptoeing through the room. He was on his way to the window with \$500 in money and a bunch of jewelry all tied up in a bag. But on seeing Mrs. Rouan's dainty feet protruding from under the bed clothing the burglar stopped. He muttered:

"Such a joke it would be; yes, I'll do it," he chortled, and carefully placed his bag of swag on the floor. Slowly crawling in the semi-darkness of the room, he reached a point where he could reach the dainty tootsies. Then with his finger he reached up and tickled Mrs. Rouan's pink little toes. She sat up in bed and found herself staring into the face of a masked man. Her shrieks awakened her husband and frightened the burglar so he fled. He left his booty behind.

**BIG SPRING BURSTS FORTH.**

Gushes Suddenly on Farm Where Water is Badly Needed.

Plainfield, Ind.—Scarcity of water for his live stock had always been a drawback to Charles Oursler, a farmer near here, who did not increase his total number of herd for that reason.

Now a flowing stream is furnishing water for fifty head of stock. The spring appeared suddenly in the middle of the field, bursting through die of the field, bursting through the ground where there was not the least there has been a steady flow of water and there is no indication of the newly arrived oasis disappearing. Its origin is a mystery.

A similar spring has appeared about five miles east of this one, and the explanation of its origin is as hard to find as the one on the Oursler farm.

**MONEY IN PIG SQUEALS.**

Formerly Wasted at Stock Yards, But Now Have Commercial Value.

Chicago.—An inventive genius has discovered that there is money in a pig's squeal.

So that which P. D. Armour said was the only thing that went to waste at the stock yards now has a commercial value.

A man carrying a camera and a machine for making phonograph records presented himself recently at the stock yards and asked permission to take some pictures for use in a five-cent theatre to illustrate a pictorial slide entitled "A Day at the Stock Yards."

"I will first take a set of moving pictures," he said, "and then get a record for the phonograph." He then caught squeals of hogs as they were hoisted to death.

**Woman Aged 39, Has 18 Children.**

Chippewa Falls, Wis.—A visitor here from Waupun was Mrs. Catherine Marbone, who is, perhaps, the champion mother in Wisconsin. Mrs. Marbone is only thirty-nine years old, has been married nineteen years and had eighteen children, one born each year. She has been married twice, the first time when she was seventeen years old. Twelve children blessed her first marriage and six her second.

**Sells Pearl for Nine Hundred Dollars.**

Petersburg, Ind.—Garry Gallahan, pearl fisher, who found a valuable pearl in White river in front of his home, sold the pearl to a Mt. Carmel buyer for \$900.

**THE YOUNG MAN'S CHOICE.**

Dec. 6, '08—(I. Kings 2: 4-15.)

That is an important hour in a young man's life when he stands on the threshold of manhood to make choice of his life work. Everything has been done for him that parental care and educational advantages can secure, and now has come the time when he must decide for himself what his future course shall be. What profession or employment shall he choose? What aim shall he take? What ambition shall he exercise? What goal shall be set before him? Upon the answer to these questions depends his prospects and usefulness.

The quality of the young man can be pretty accurately determined by the choice he makes. If he is looking for a "soft snap" in life, an easy berth, a chance to live by his wits, it will appear in the way he takes hold of things at the start. The way a young man heads when he starts out for himself is a very certain prophecy of where he will bring up. You do not have to wait 'till a man is old to judge of the quality of his manhood. The child is father of the man.

**A Thoroughbred's Choice.**

Solomon is a splendid example of a young man making a wise choice. He showed his breeding at the start. He demonstrated that he had blue blood in his veins at the very beginning. At 15 years of age he was brought to the point of decision. He is represented as facing a decision proposed by the Almighty, "In Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, 'Ask what I shall give thee.'" Under such circumstances there was opportunity for a vast range of desire. He might have asked for long life, he might have asked for riches, he might have asked for revenge on his enemies, he might have asked for regal dominion above all other powers. Many would have done so. But he did not. The real quality of his young manhood comes out in the fact that he asked for but one thing—wisdom. "Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad. I am but a little child; I know not how to go out or come in." And what he asked for, he received. Solomon's one legacy to men is not the memory of his royalty or his riches, but of his wisdom, for that alone truly made him great.

**Success No Accident.**

Success is not an accident. The successful men do not stumble upon property. Wisdom does not come unsought. The Almighty did not put wisdom into the mind of Solomon without effort on his part. His writings show that he was a man of rare accomplishments, the accuracy of his information, the breadth of view, the ample knowledge of affairs, the ripe judgment, the instinctive discernment, the quick and penetrating glance all show that Solomon was an earnest seeker for all sorts of wisdom to the end of his days.

The young man who intends to be a success in any and every condition of life must know how to plod. He must never allow himself to imagine that he "knows it all." Never a day without learning some new thing. Never a deed without the consciousness that it could have been done better. He who stops growing begins to die. If he is ever perfectly satisfied with his attainments, he is already struck with death. Life is not taking passage in a parlor car, where you have nothing to do but enjoy the scenery; it is more like blasting out that road bed, with bent back and calloused hands and putting down the rails over which future generations shall move on to the consummation of the ages. The Balaeric mothers hang their children's food on the limbs of trees, and they must go hungry until they can bring it down with the bow. So God lets the vein of gold look through but not lie open upon the rock. He puts the star-depths within reach of the telescope but not of the naked eye. The secrets of nature are given up to the wit and not to the listlessness of men. There is no royal road to learning. Nay, even in religion itself it is evermore true that "the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence and the violent take it by force."

**Incidental Advantages.**

And do not overlook the fact that in choosing wisdom Solomon secured everything that went with it; riches, long life, prosperity and every other incidental. The greater includes the less. He showed his wisdom in asking for wisdom, for in getting the fountain he got the stream. In vain does the rich man lay up riches for many years for his "soul," if he has not first made certain that he will have a "soul" beyond to-night. The man who sets a worthy goal before himself, on the way to that goal comes into touch with everything along the way that leads to it, and reaches it at length to find that he has incidentally come into possession of ten thousand things that he would not otherwise have achieved. "Seek first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you."

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