

Saturday Night Talks
By F. E. DAVISON
Roanoke, Va.

THE EVER LIVING ONE.

Jan. 3, '09—(Acts 1:1-14).

The thing which differentiates Jesus Christ from all other Saviours is this: they are all dead. He is alive forevermore. When Confucius, Buddha, Mahomet, had finished their earthly lives they went down into the grave; when Christ went out of earthly relations He ascended into the heavens. Their bodies crumbled back to dust; His body rests in no earthly tomb. Heathen devotees prostrate themselves at the sepulchres where their great religious founders lie; He left behind only his grave clothes. As the Apostles Creed has it, "The third day He rose again. He ascended to the right hand of God, the Father Almighty." Heathen and Pagan nations worship a dead memory; Christianly adore a living Lord. No one undertakes to argue that the founders of false religions still issue orders or utter wise teachings; all Christendom moves forward with the certain conviction that the pierced hand of the world's Redeemer is swaying the scepter of universal dominion, destined, in the fullness of time to put all things under his feet.

Gradually Prepared Men.

The process by which Christ disengaged himself from his disciples is intensely interesting. No sooner had he selected the men who were to be the heralds of the new religion than He began to prepare them for His departure. He taught them to Him with hooks of steel, and at the same time began to tear them in with silk alone. He gradually withdrew from them that they might develop self-confidence, originality, initiative. He showed them their God, turned their faces toward the four quarters of the earth, lifted them out of narrow geographical and sectarian boundaries, inspired them with an ambition for world-wide conquest, and gradually withdrew from the limelight of publicity. He unclenched their hands, gently, tenderly, yet emphatically at the Transfiguration, at the Last Supper, at Gethsemane, at Calvary, at the Empty Tomb, at Emmaus, in the upper room, at the Sea of Galilee, and finally from the summit of Olivet, as the gravitation of earth released its hold upon him and the attraction of Paradise reclaimed Him, leaving His human followers stretching their hands and straining their eyes after Him as a cloud of supernatural beings received Him out of their sight.

Learn to Do by Doing.

And why not? There is sound philosophy here as well as theological dogma. The mother must hold up the child learning to walk, but the wise mother withdraws her supporting hand just as speedily as necessary. The best teachers are not those who do the work of their pupils for them, but who throw them upon their own resources. No man learns a trade, by seeing other men work, he must take the tools in his own hand sooner or later. He may bungle and do a lot of damage, before he becomes proficient, but he will never be a master workman until he is capable of handling the tools. We learn to do, by doing. The capabilities and spiritual qualities of the disciples were never known until their Master was removed from them. When He was at the head, they were like a flock of trained sheep, huddling around a protecting shepherd, stampeding when the wolves howled upon them, but the moment they were thrown upon their own resources they turned upon their enemies like roaring lions, assumed the air of conquerors, bearded hoary iniquities in their dens, developed undreamed qualities, turned Jerusalem upside down with fiery zeal, and swept on their victorious way undaunted by any obstacles. Instead of being orphanage the ascension of Christ was the best thing that had happened to the church up to that hour. Hitherto they had been drilling, marking time, chafing in the harness, held back with the prey in sight.

Headquarters Transferred.

The instant headquarters was transferred from Jerusalem in Palestine to the Jerusalem which is above, the mother of us all, and the command rang out, Go! those men flung themselves upon the heathen, pagan, civilized and uncivilized world like those who knew their held all-conquering weapons in their hands. They had found themselves, God was on the field, when He was most invisible. Presence had become omnipresence. Locality had been raised to universality. Wherever now, any human being stands for truth against untruth, righteousness against unrighteousness, light against darkness, freedom against oppression, joy against sorrow, virtue against shame, uprightness against crookedness, on any foot of this planet, that man hears in his soul a supernal voice of a deathless Lord crying, "Strike, with all the power that is at thy command, and lo, I am with thee always even unto the end of the world."

O, best is he, to whom is given
The knowledge that can tell,
That God is on the field,
When He is most invisible.

GLAD IN DIADEM, GIRL DANCES

German Reichstag Takes in a Beauty Evening—Church Crusade in Berlin.

Berlin, Germany.—Living statuary and Salome dancers in America and England have been the talk of the whole world, but it remained for the Germans, who delight in having their kultur over that of France or Russia, to present under a pretended mantle of art a series of performances which might only be expected in an Arab cafe d'elite.

About a year ago a society was formed for the cultivation of corporeal beauty and the propagation of the creed of true morality which is only to be found in nudity. The society took the name Die Schonheit—Beauty. It at first confined itself to issuing periodical so-called artistic photographs. Then followed "beauty evenings," to which at first only members of Die Schonheit were admitted.

These evenings were such a success that they were soon made public and took Berlin by storm. A sword dance more shameless than anything perpetrated on the northern boulevards of Paris achieved enormous popularity. But at last the Catholics and Lutherans protested against the performances and one Deputy announced that he would make an interpellation of the Government in the Prussian Diet, while church newspapers severely criticized the Minister of the Interior for allowing the shows to go on. The result of all this was that the public performances were discontinued.

The society made every effort to get public opinion in their favor, and finally invited the whole Reichstag and the Prussian Diet to witness a performance at a "beauty evening." The new concert hall in Berlin was crowded with Deputies, some of whom were accompanied by their wives and even their daughters, and all armed with opera glasses. They sat right through the performance, which was a crescendo of indecency, culminating in the flagrant sword dance, which was performed by a young woman whose entire costume consisted of a diadem and hair.

DIVORCE PERIL GROWING.

Lecturer Says Divorces Will End Half of Marriages in 2000.

Ithaca, N. Y.—In a lecture in the Cornell department of sanitary science and public health, and speaking of "Vital Statistics in Marriage and Divorce," Prof. Walter F. Wilcox made a startling statement.

"The increase of divorce," he said, "is so rapid that at the end of the present century, if it is not checked, fully one-half of the marriages will be ended by divorce instead of death."

The lecturer showed that divorces were only about one-fourth as likely after children are born and that most divorces occur in the first few years of marriage.

Marriages decreased as divorces multiplied, he said, which was to be deplored for many reasons, not the least important of which was that the death rate among married men and women was less than among single persons.

SEES DISTANT TRAGEDY.

Caretaker at Long Range Witnesses Double Shooting.

Los Angeles, Cal.—From a position on a hill top Al Watts, a contractor at the Rose Mine, while peering through the range of a new pair of powerful field glasses, saw a tragedy enacted a great distance away, of which the following details were afterward obtained.

William McKey, a mining man, shot and probably fatally wounded Dr. W. Kahns and another miner whose name could not be learned, at Rose Mine, an isolated camp in the San Bernardino Mountains, fifty miles from this city.

The tragedy was the result of a dispute over mining claims.

Dr. Kahns and the other victim were in a wagon, and when McKey opened fire upon them they fell off the seat. McKey, it is said, then walked up to the prostrate forms and fired an additional bullet into the body of each.

Mink Farm in Oregon.

Rattlesnake Point, Oregon.—Tom Staten has established a farm for the raising of mink on the upper Klamath Lake. About a hundred of the animals are housed in cages or cabinets, and seem to do well and thrive in captivity, as they are all fat and sleek looking.

The animals are so tame that they will take food from the hand, although one has to be careful in handling them, as the mink is treacherous and has very sharp teeth. As mink in this county increase about five fold Mr. Staten expects to have something over 500 in his cages next year. The value of their fur alone will aggregate about \$3,000, but live female minks sell for a much higher figure than their hide alone is worth.

Acetylene the Coming Light.

Acetylene lighting is quietly gaining favor, and the German Acetylene Association finds the gas is supplied the public by 75 places in Germany, 202 in the United States, 16 in the United Kingdom, and 19 in the British colonies, while Germany alone has 75,000 private installations.

Urge Special Service.

The establishment of a Scandinavian steamship service to America is being actively urged in Sweden, Norway and Denmark.

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