

Saturday Night Talks
By F. E. DAVIDSON
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THE MODEL CHURCH.

Jan. 17, '09—(Acts 2:22-47).

A great deal is said these days about the church of the future. It is admitted on all sides that the church of the present is sadly lacking in those qualities which make for world conquest. It makes progress, but it is comparatively slow progress. It requires a vast amount of machinery to do a small amount of work. And its earnest leaders and members are dreaming of a good time coming, somewhere in the distant future when the church shall dominate the world, and be the chief organization in the life of the race.

But the fact is we are looking in the wrong direction. The golden age is not in the future; it was in the past. Instead of speculating on a visionary future we should be studying a historic past. The model church has been in existence and has passed away. It was organized by the Holy Ghost on the Day of Pentecost; it was composed of the apostles, the disciples, and 3000 converts from all parts of the known world; it was located in Jerusalem, and the earth still feels the pulsations of its mighty heart.

Its Characteristics.

They are all written down for us in the closing verses of this lesson, the first principles should be the rallying cry of this age. No human ingenuity can possibly improve on the divine plan. What succeeded in the 1st century will succeed in the 20th century. Celestial mechanics are as unchangeable as the movements of the spheres. What we need is not more machinery in the church but more of the motive power that once drove that machinery. In our desire to fill our ecclesiastical manufactory with up to date soul-saving machinery, we have too often overlooked the point as to whether the motive power can be applied to such devices. The Holy Spirit is not like electricity which can be turned by man's device into any channel he chooses. He will use us, but it does not necessarily follow that we can always use Him. The Holy Spirit is a personality, not a liquid, like water power, and He manifests His divine prerogative in sometimes absolutely refusing to lend Himself to further our senseless, selfish and sectarian devices to build up our church. And so it happens, too often, alas! that finding we cannot turn the machinery with Him, we conclude to get along without Him, and fill up our churches with uncircumcised Philistines who add to our burden, subtract from our power, multiply our difficulties, and divide our forces.

The original model church was characterized by these qualities:—

1. It was a doctrinal church.
2. It was a fellowship church.
3. It was an ordinance-observing church.
4. It was a praying church.
5. It was a miracle-working church.
6. It was a benevolent church.
7. It was a united church.
8. It was a singing church.
9. It was a popular church.
10. It was a soul-saving church.

And this is all revealed in five brief verses by the historian Luke who wrote this book of The Acts. He says: And they continued steadfastly in the apostles doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread and in prayers. And fear came upon every soul; and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. And all that believed were together and had all things common; and sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men as every man had need. And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart. Praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

Its Contrast.

Does anybody know of a church that measures up to that ideal? Wouldn't it be worth a pilgrimage around the world to visit such a company of believers? The reason the church is weak when it should be strong, heretical when it should be orthodox, powerless when it should be miracle-working, close-fisted when it should be benevolent, split-up into factions when it should be united, grumbling when it should be singing, neglected when it should be popular, dying out in many places, when it should be soul-saving, is simply and solely because it has degenerated from the model church of the 1st century, the pattern and example for all coming time. Instead of looking forward we should be looking backward, instead of looking around for new and modern machinery we should be looking upward for power from on high. The church of modern times is too much like the patent office at Washington, a vast aggregation of all sorts of devices, in miniature, highly polished and delicately adjusted, kept under glass, on exhibition, doing nothing. The old fashioned machinery may have been so beautiful, but it turned out results.

SHE WAS CALLED "POOR THING"

Had a Way of Sitting Silently at Her Work, Listening.

Pity is certainly a kindly sentiment; nevertheless it can be bestowed as to cast a doubt upon its right to a place among the virtues. There was an old-time seamstress of East Hentley who, if words were all, was beyond doubt the most tender-hearted person in the village; indeed, her favorite expression of compassion had finally passed into a nickname for herself. She was known behind her back as "Poor Thing."

"Poor Thing was not much of a talker. She had a way of sitting silently bent over her work, always with a mouth full of pins, listening to what other people had to say. Only at the end of the conversation would she extract her pins long enough to contribute her share. Perhaps the speakers had been eulogizing the abilities of a noted house-keeper.

"Yes, poor thing!" she would sigh. "Fortunate, now, isn't it, she can turn her mind to preserves and pickles and pie-baking, the way she does. She couldn't take much comfort in her children, that's sure—forth-putting, rampageous creturs. I s'pose it's a compensation."

Or the beauty of some blooming young girl would have received a tribute of praise.

"She's real pretty-appearing," the seamstress would agree, mournfully. "She certainly is—but then those delicate-featur'd, light-complected folks never keep their looks more'n a few years. She'll fade right out before she's twenty-five, poor thing!"

Again, the prosperity of a neighboring farmer was discussed and his ability admired.

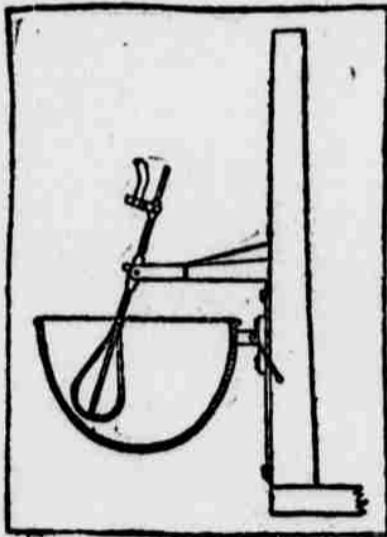
"Drivers, both of 'em—Mirandy and he," she would agree, promptly. "I don't doubt they've earned every mite of it. I never knew such folks for driving. There ain't any loafing 'round their place, nor any resting, either. My land, but they keep things moving! I can tell you they make the children step lively about chores. I dare say it's good for 'em, or it would be if they weren't so little—but there, I can't help pity-'em, poor things!"

Poor Thing was a good worker, but she never became popular with her fellow villagers, which, considering her concern over all their woes and fallings, was rather hard on her—poor thing!

ELECTRIC EGG BEATER.

Much Time and Labor Saved by This Invention.

Electricity having been used for almost every purpose under the sun, now it has recently been harnessed up by a Jersey City man to beat eggs. In any hotel or bakery where eggs are used in large quantities and where they require beating as for a cake, this electric beater will be a welcome addition. It not only saves much hard work—for beating eggs



ELECTRIC EGG BEATER.

is no child's play—but it does the job better and much more expeditiously than it can be done by hand. Like most electrical devices it is a case of you press the button and the machine does the rest. The beater consists of a vertical support, with an arm holding the egg-beater shaft. Below this is an adjustable bracket, provided with a bowl in which the eggs are placed. By pressing the button the beater revolves swiftly in the bowl and as the power and speed of the stroke does not vary the eggs are beaten with unusual consistency. —Washington Star.

Testing Baby's Bath.

Theoretically every mother ought to have a thermometer to test the baby's bath water; obviously everyone does not. However, it is manifestly unsafe to rely on the time-honored method of testing with the hand, as much infantile discomfort, even real injury, may result from the practice. A good substitute for the thermometer is the mother's bared elbow applied to the water. Not being accustomed to extremes of heat and cold, as is the hand, the flesh of the elbow responds quickly to the slightest change of temperatures from blood heat, thus indicating the degree of warmth required.

Society of Whales.

The Society of Whales is a new organization. Every young wife in town belongs and the title of the society is taken from the faith a bride has in her husband. She would believe him if he said he saw a whale swimming up Commercial street. After she has been married for a few months she drops from the club.

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