

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

THE WORLD'S CHAMPION LIAR.

Feb. 7, '09—(Acts 4:32:5:11).

Light and darkness, truth and error, health and sickness, honesty and hypocrisy, reality and counterfeit in this world exist side by side, and it is sometimes difficult to distinguish the genuine from the spurious. Fraud and adulteration everywhere abounds, and even religion is an exception to the rule.

Founder of Ananias Club.

The founder of the Ananias class posed as a great hearted philanthropist. He gave ostentatiously to the cause. He expected to be held up as a model by the church and receive credit for self-sacrificing devotion. But the Almighty upset his well-laid plans, smote him with heaven's lightning at the very foot of the altar, and hung him up in the pillory of the world's execration as the champion liar of the ages.

He saw others putting their property into a common fund for the relief of the poor and the support of the church, and he recognized a chance to make himself conspicuous, and at the same time keep an anchor to windward for an emergency. Ananias and Sapphira, his wife, entered into a secret agreement to pretend to give up all their possessions, while in reality salting down a good share of it, to fall back upon if anything unforeseen turned up. The apostles suspected for some cause that Ananias was crooked, so when he laid down the money for his real estate at their feet, Peter said, "Did you sell the land for so much?" "Yes," said Ananias. Dead! as quick as that. Sapphira came in, not knowing what had happened. The same question, the same reply, the same result. Drastic treatment, but it stopped the hypocrisy right then and there. The early church had other troubles but there never was another Ananias and Sapphira. Nobody ever attempted after that to lie to the Holy Ghost. People inside and outside the church began to deal with it circumspectly. They might not agree with it but they began to have a very real respect for it; something like the respect of the man who does not understand electricity but who knows enough not to pick up a live wire.

Prevaricators Numerous.

Liar!—They are not all dead yet. Now that they seldom if ever, drop dead while falsifying, prevaricators are a numerous brood. They have even improved upon the decalogue and have manufactured lies which are not lies, and falsehoods that deceive the very elect. So now we have white lies instead of black lies, and lies of all the colors of the rainbow. The consequence is we have a vast amount of the Devil's coin in circulation that can hardly be distinguished from the genuine coin of the realm. At any rate it passes currency in modern society and we all drink at it, pass it along to somebody else, and have not the courage to hold it up to investigation, denounce it, and relegate it to the junk shop of the counterfeit and the vile.

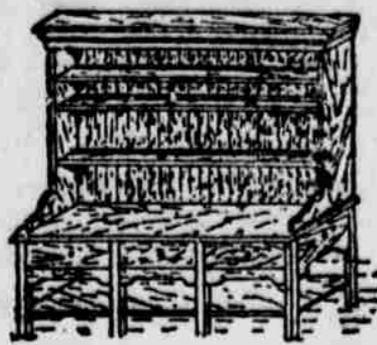
No Lie Insignificant.

It is the universal verdict that Ananias was the champion liar because he lied about such a great thing and in such a public manner. But no lie is insignificant. You may consider it so, because it relates to such an insignificant thing. You would despise a statesman who would lie about some question of international importance, or an executor who would lie about the value of an estate, or a historian who would lie about an occurrence of world-wide importance. But when a thing is insignificant in itself, of such small concern that a man could put the article in his vest pocket, why should he take his place in the Ananias class? For the very reason that there are no shades and gradations of moral character. If a man lies he is a liar no matter how insignificant the thing he lies about. The thing may be small, but the lie is bigger than the Pyramids, and as ponderable. There is no such thing as a "sharp trade" known in the throne room of eternal justice. There, truth is truth, and a lie is a lie, and right is right, and wrong is wrong. We need not waste any time discussing whether, under certain imaginable conditions, a lie would be justifiable, not once in a thousand years are such conditions met. We shall have all we can attend to to keep our record straight in the real experiences of life, without bothering our heads about what we might do if we should ever happen to be placed in such circumstances as we can imagine. Let it be settled once for all that no man is obliged to be dishonest. Men can be truthful under all circumstances. Children can be truthful. Merchants can be truthful. Statesmen can be truthful, historians can be truthful, editors can be truthful, teachers can be truthful, all men can be truthful. A United States Pension Commission put up in his office this motto: "God hates a liar!" and that motto stared every man in the face who entered that office to do business with the pension department. That is a good motto to hang up anywhere.

CHINA CLOSET.

Convenient Article of Furniture That Can Be Made at Home.

The Homestead gives a description of a home-made china closet. The base shelf, or table part, is 30 inches high and should be from 38 to 60 inches long, depending on the size of the room in which it will be placed when finished. The width of the table top should be from 20 to 24 inches, and the cabinet, or top part, is 12 inches wide and from 48



HOME-MADE CHINA CLOSET.

to 50 inches high. The back of the cabinet is of three-eighths beaded ceiling, and, with the exception of the crown mold and the legs, the table is built of seven-eighths or three-quarter inch lumber. The shelves have either small grooves plowed in them or small half rounds nailed on the rear portion of them for holding the plates in an upright position, the grooves being preferred. The hooks for the cups, etc., are placed where desired, also the shelves, and the size of the plates must regulate the distance between them. Many families have one or more pieces of old, worn-out furniture of oak or some nice hard wood. These could be used very nicely, but should pine or any of the soft woods be used, when same has been sandpapered nicely, apply one or two coats of any stain desired. When dry, again sandpaper and give as many coats as necessary to produce the desired color, but sandpaper well before applying the varnish.

The Uses of a Hot Iron.

To remove shiny spots from black woolen garments place the garment, whether coat, trousers or dress, on an ironing board. Wring a cloth from water, spread carefully over the garment, then pass a hot flatiron back and forth just above the wet cloth as closely as you can without touching it. The nap will rise and the shine disappear.

If you suspect that there are moths in your carpets, try to locate their hiding place. Wring a coarse cloth out of clean water and spread it smooth on the spot in the carpet where you think the moths are. Iron the wet cloth with a hot iron. The steam will kill the moths and eggs.

NOVEL KITCHEN REMINDER.

Ingenious Device Saves Time and Thought for Busy Housewives.

A Tennessee genius has invented a kitchen reminder that should earn him the thanks of the busy housewives. Like many time-saving devices, it is simpler than the system it supplants. A card or board is notched on two sides, and opposite each month is written the name of some household article or article of food, such as soap, starch, sugar, eggs, etc. A series of strings or rub-



ber bands are then tied around the card, loosely enough that they may be moved into any notch desired. Instead of writing out a daily list for tradesmen, the housewife needs simply to attach the string in the notches indicating the article required. The same results can be obtained by having a bundle of strings tied in a knot in the center, with their free ends long enough to be fastened in the slits on the edges of the card.

To Cleanse a Foul Lamp.

Those who use kerosene-oil lamps know how the dirt accumulates in the bottom of the lamp and clogs the wick, thus affecting the light. To prevent this take a few lengths of knitting yarn, tie up into a small bag, clipping out all around so that ends of the wool may be loose. Drop this into the lamp and it will gather up the dirt, making the oil look clear. It can be renewed as often as necessary.

Influence of Wall Paper.

Remember that blue colored wall paper, unless it gets lots of sun, makes a room have a cold appearance. Striped paper apparently increases the height, use it in your low rooms. A plain wall with deep frieze, having lots of bold drawing and full of color, makes a strong room and gives chance for hanging etchings, plaster casts, sketches, etc.

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